

UAE, Iran to meet over dispute

DUBAI (Agency) — Negotiators from Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are to meet in the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on Sunday in the first breakthrough in efforts to defuse a row over a strategic Gulf island, diplomats said Wednesday. They said the meeting of senior Foreign Ministry officials from the two countries would "discuss recent problems between Iran and the UAE." This was a reference to Tehran's virtual annexation of the island and Abu Musa half-way between the two countries earlier this year which raised Arab-Iranian tensions in a region that straddled two-thirds of the world's oil reserves. The two countries shared control of Abu Musa under a 1971 agreement that allowed Iran to set up a garrison on the island that was until then controlled solely by Sharjah, one of seven lower Gulf Arab sheikhdoms that later formed the UAE. An Egyptian official Tuesday discounted the possibility of an Arab military intervention in the Gulf to resolve the conflict. Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's top political advisor, said efforts were being exerted to settle the dispute peacefully. He was speaking to reporters after a three-hour meeting between Mr. Mubarak and UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan.

Jordan Times

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Special edition on Friday

THE JORDAN TIMES is pleased to announce that there will be a special issue of the newspaper on Friday, Sept. 25, on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's return home following his successful surgery and recuperation abroad. The newspaper will be available for sale on newsstands as usual on that day. Those who wish to place advertisements in the special issue are advised to contact our advertising department at 667171, Ext. 223

Volume 17 Number 5114

AMMAN THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1992, RABI' AL AWAL 27, 1413

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

King returns today to joyous welcome

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

OVER ONE MILLION people are expected in Amman today to give a rousing welcome to His Majesty King Hussein, who is returning after a five-week long sojourn abroad during which he underwent successful surgery for a spinal tract ailment.

Streets have been decorated with the King's pictures and the national flag while buildings are draped with coloured lights to celebrate the King's recovery from illness. Today has been declared as a public holiday. Rejoicings at the official and popular levels were manifest in all districts, public squares and streets of the capital and other towns and villages of the Kingdom.

Office buildings are festooned with coloured lights and life-size portraits of the King, bedouin leaders have pitched tents in Amman's districts and brought in camels and sheep to slaughter in thanksgiving sacrifice when the King flies in.

Army jetfighters will greet and escort the royal plane from the moment it enters Jordanian airspace around Thursday noon.

In the bustling and narrow streets downtown Amman shopkeepers were Wednesday offering sweets and soft drinks to passersby while crowds gathered to chant slogans and sing songs lauding the King.

The local authorities have arranged for 53,000 students from government schools to line the streets of Amman where the royal motorcade will pass at noon Thursday and some 2,500 scouts have been enlisted to help keep order.

Notables from various governorates have been assigned areas in the capital's various districts to welcome the King.

On the eve of the King's return, hundreds of students marched downtown Wednesday Amman chanting slogans, blocking the traffic to decorate cars with the King's picture.

Hundreds of people gathered in public parks and tribesmen from throughout the country have swarmed to the capital to greet the King.

After the official welcoming ceremony at Marka airport, the royal motorcade will pass through the streets through downtown (Jabal Amman) to Zahran Palace, and then the Fifth Circle, the Sports City and Jabal Hussein to the Basman Palace.

As soon as the King's plane touches down at the airport all the Kingdom's churches will toll their bells in a show of rejoicing while all mosques minarets will be lit for four consecutive days.

Jordan Television will screen celebrations to be held in the eight different governorates between Saturday Sept. 26 and Friday Oct. 2.

His Majesty visits Jordanian peacekeeping unit in Croatia

ZAGREB, Croatia (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein paid a brief visit Wednesday to Jordanian troops taking part in the U.N. peacekeeping operation in Croatia.

King Hussein made the stopover en route home from London. He travelled from Zagreb to Novska, about 100 kilometers east of the Croatian capital, where a contingent of 950 Jordanian soldiers is based.

"I am very happy to have the opportunity to visit the Jordanian contingent," King Hussein told re-

porters at the Zagreb airport. "I promised to do so earlier, so I'm fulfilling my promise now."

Addressing the soldiers, the King expressed pride in the performance of their duties and said the Jordanian role in the peacekeeping operations was a reflection of the Kingdom's keen desire to serve the cause of peace despite challenges and to uphold and defend its principles.

"The world is a big village now and it is our duty to care for humanity in

this planet," he said. "I remind you that I promised when I saw you off (from Amman) that I would visit you and I am fulfilling this promise," the King told the soldiers. "I wish circumstances had permitted me to fulfill this promise earlier ... I am now on my way home after health conditions kept me away and I could not go home without fulfilling my promise to meet you ... and express my deep pride in you."

WELCOME HOME YOUR MAJESTIES

Eng. Sabri Farah and Family



God bless
and
protect you



ARAB BANK

Arafat: Iran, Saudis finance Abu Nidal, Palestinian hardliners

TUNIS (Agencies) — Yasser Arafat says Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states are undermining the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) by financing its rivals — across the board from Abu Nidal to Islamic fundamentalists in the Israeli-occupied territories.

But neither that nor the possibility of a Syrian-Israeli peace treaty, will pressure the Palestinians into a compromise that does not meet their aspirations for an independent homeland, Mr. Arafat said in a late Tuesday night interview with the Associated Press.

"No stability, no security, no peace can be achieved by jumping over or bypassing Palestinians' political rights," he declared.

Sidelined in the U.S.-sponsored peace talks and ostracised by the Gulf states because of his sympathy for Iraq during the Gulf crisis, Mr. Arafat has been increasingly isolated.

But for a leader whose political survival is in question, he appears surprisingly confident that the PLO will weather the storm.

The main challenge to the PLO's support among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

He said that Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani bluntly told him earlier this month that Iran will "support all these extremists left and right."

"I told him: 'You're not the first man to try. We're a nut that's not easy to crack,'" Mr. Arafat said.

He said the other main recipient of funds which once went to the PLO is Abu Nidal, who has topped the world's most-wanted

lists since he split from the PLO in the early 1970s.

A U.S. State Department report last year blamed Abu Nidal and his operatives for more than 100 attacks around the world in which 280 people died.

Mr. Arafat refused to give details of the financial aid he said is being channelled to his Palestinian foes.

But other PLO officials said the Saudis gave Hamas \$18 million earlier this month. They said Abu Nidal had received about \$40 million since the Gulf crisis erupted in August 1990.

It is not clear to what end the Saudis and others would bankroll Abu Nidal, although the Saudis reportedly have paid him large sums in the past so he would not attack their interests.

Mr. Arafat said his allegations are "not inventions," and noted that investigations into the 1991 Bank of Commerce and Credit International collapse disclosed that Arab states were buying off Abu Nidal.

Little is known of Abu Nidal's whereabouts or the status of his organisation, Fatah-Revolutionary Council.

Following a major schism within his faction three years ago, in which scores of his men perished, Abu Nidal has been largely quiescent.

He was last reported based in Libya, although Tripoli is reported to have kicked him out and destroyed his camps.

Mr. Arafat said his concern about Saudi contributions had been relayed to King Fahd through Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and the Saudi monarch said no money was coming from his government.

However, Mr. Arafat quoted

King Fahd as saying that maybe the money was coming from "some associations." He did not elaborate.

The PLO's financial woes and the lack of progress in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks are threatening to push more and more people into the laps of extremists, PLO officials say.

Mr. Arafat warned: "The masses will become desperate if there are no results from the peace talks and that will lead to complete confusion in the whole region."

He said Arab optimism that the change of government in Israel would help the peace talks has faded. He said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin "is another face of the same coin" as his hawkish predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, who was quoted in June elections.

Mr. Arafat said the Bush administration's decision to grant the Rabin government \$10 billion in loan guarantees would encourage the building of more Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Rabin has offered a partial withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights, in return for peace with Damascus. This week he said peace with Syria was possible in six months to one year.

Hints of the possible breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli front have left the Palestinians with no powerful ally in the peace process and raised speculation that a separate peace treaty like the one signed by Israel and Egypt in 1979 is in the making.

Mr. Arafat said: "We can't prevent anyone from making peace with the others, but it won't solve the problem or make for stability in the region."

Opponents of peace talks stage strike

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hardline Palestinian factions opposed to peace talks with Israel succeeded Wednesday in shutting the occupied territories with a general strike.

The strike was observed despite appeals by pro-talks groups to ignore it, partly because merchants were afraid of retribution.

Youngs were seen forcing shopkeepers to close, and one merchant said stores shut because of fear of fights between groups supporting and opposing the talks.

The majority of the Palestinians in the occupied territories are believed to back the negotiations, although no surveys have been done.

The Palestinian strike shattered stores, stopped transportation and kept students home from school throughout the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, a few stores opened Wednesday, but were later closed by enforcers of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, Arab reporters said.

Hamas activists in Nablus burned tyres, set up roadblocks and spread nails on streets to prevent Palestinians from going to their jobs in Israel and opening stores.

A merchant in East Jerusalem said some stores opened but quickly closed because they feared fights would break out between youths from Hamas and from Fatah.

Yacoub Farah, an East Jerusalem tailor, said he closed by choice. "We're on strike because we want a just peace. These talks are not going in the right path. We don't want peace by force," he said.

The strike was called by 10 organisations, including Hamas, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and several splinter groups.

The unified national command of the Palestinian uprising put out a separate leaflet urging that the strike call be ignored.

Masked Arabs shot and seriously wounded a Jewish farmer in northern Israel Wednesday, police said.

Four men attacked the farmer in a field at Moshav Gadiah in the Jezreel Valley, about one kilometre from the occupied West Bank, and escaped.

A Palestinian man killed an Israeli paramilitary policeman in Jerusalem on Tuesday. Hamas claimed responsibility for that attack.

In South Lebanon, the general strike was observed in the squalid refugee camps of Mijeh Mijeh and 'Ain Hilweh on the outskirts of Sidon. Activists burned tyres in the streets and carried banners urging Palestinian delegates to pull out of the talks.

In the northern camps of Al Bared and Biddawi near Tripoli, refugees carried banners decrying "the conspiracy of self-rule."

Abdul Fida Omar, a 40-year-old member of the PFLP-General Command, said the Palestinians would "confront with all means for self-rule... even if it leads to crushing battles."

In the squalid refugee camp of Basma, Jordan's biggest refugee camp with over 100,000 residents, only a few shops were closed. About 30 boys marched through the main street chanting national slogans.

Palestinian sources said Fatah supporters campaigned hard to prevent widespread demonstrations.

Peres calls for Israeli-Syrian summit

Rabin says Israeli-Palestinian confederation possible

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres has called for an unprecedented Israeli-Syrian summit meeting to advance Middle East peace talks.

"I don't know if there's a chance but I know there's a need for it," Mr. Peres said when asked about prospects for a meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"I believe the time has come for Syria's leaders at all levels to meet Israel's leaders at all levels in the light of day," Mr. Peres, told Israel Radio from New York where he was attending the United Nations General Assembly.

Mr. Rabin said Tuesday talks with Syria should be raised to a higher level.

Senior Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday a summit have out of the question for now. They said Mr. Rabin favoured secret bilateral contacts of a sort that led to peace with Egypt.

But challenging the Syrians, Mr. Peres said: "I do not just mystify the mystery, or the hide-and-seek, or the shirking of (a high-level) meeting such as this."

Mr. Peres, who earlier met acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, said he did not know if the Americans were trying to arrange a summit.

Israeli officials are due to end a sixth round of talks with delegations from Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians in Washington this week. No date has been set for their resumption.

Mr. Peres said Assad would bolster peace moves by following the example of late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat whose 1977 visit to occupied territories led to Israel's only peace treaty with an Arab state.

The Israeli-Syrian meetings opened last month with a flurry of unexpectedly upbeat statements by the Israelis, but by last Thursday Syria said the talks were at an impasse.

The Syrians want Israel to discuss returning the Golan Heights. Israel insists that Syria commit itself first to a "full peace," including diplomatic relations and open borders.

Pressure by the talks' sponsor, the United States, helped ensure both sides resumed meetings on Monday.

Mr. Rabin has tried in statements this month to persuade Israelis they will have to hand

back part of the Golan Heights to achieve peace with Damascus.

Golan settlers, many from Rabin's own Labour Party, marched on his office Wednesday in protest at a land-for-peace deal they charge will endanger Israel's security.

On Tuesday, Mr. Peres gave up trying to arrange a meeting while his Syrian counterpart. While both are attending the General Assembly's special session.

Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger declined to intervene. "It's an issue I want to stay out of," he told reporters as he met with Mr. Peres.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, seeking to carve out a greater French role in the peace process, visited Syria two weeks ago and, according to some reports, was trying to arrange a meeting in New York between Mr. Peres and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa.

The idea would be to open another negotiating channel. "We have to meet with all ministers, without reservations, without excuses, without hiding," Mr. Peres said in an exchange with a reporter in Mr. Eagleburger's hotel suite.

"We have to meet face to face, talk sense and try to bring the peace to the right place," he said.

But, Peres said, a meeting with Mr. Sharaa "is not on my itinerary for the time being."

In Washington, Syria dismissed an Israeli attempt Tuesday to present new wording to break the impasse over the Golan Heights and said the latest round of peace talks looked like ending without progress.

Israel had hoped to be able to hammer out a joint statement of principles with Syria by the time the talks end on Thursday.

Syria's chief negotiator, Mouwafak Al Alal, said Israel tried to propose phrasing the document to say it was aware of certain provisions in U.N. resolution 242, which calls for Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in return for peace.

"All that we heard today is a statement which says that the Israelis are aware, for instance, of certain words in Resolution 242, which means nothing," said Mr. Alal.

"We are not here to remind each other what is written in 242. We are here to try to implement 242," he said.

"It seems that so far there is no

intention or no authority to enter into something serious, something substantive and I'm afraid we maybe cannot expect a change in the coming two days," Mr. Alal said.

But Mr. Alal vowed to continue the talks until their scheduled conclusion and said Syria was ready to accept Israel's proposal to reconvene in Washington on Oct. 21 days.

Israel's chief negotiator, Itamar Rabinovich, said Mr. Alal's pessimism could be a negotiation tactic to try to extract concessions.

"In the exchanges between the Syrians and us concerning the nature of peace on the one hand and the territorial dimension linked to it organically on the other, we found some points of interest, potentially promising," he said.

Israel's separate talks with Palestinians aimed at establishing self-rule for nearly two million inhabitants of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip also made no progress.

On the Israeli-Palestinian front, Mr. Rabin does not count out an eventual confederation with a Palestinian entity, Israel Television reported Tuesday night.

The confederation could come in the place of a proposed Palestinian-Jordanian federation, the Television quoted Mr. Rabin as saying.

It added that Mr. Rabin had received positive feedback on the idea from Palestinian leaders, including the head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Washington, Haidar Abdul Shafi.

During the Israeli-Palestinian bilateral talks, Israel has focused on an interim five year period of Palestinian autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, preferring to leave the final status until later.

Mr. Rabin said the autonomy is still the primary focus, the Television said. But a Palestinian-Israeli confederation would help solve the issue of who eventually controls the area.

Israel claims it needs access to the West Bank for "security" reasons, as its mountain ranges offer a first line of defence from an attack from the east.

Palestinians hope to set up an independent state in the occupied lands.

Mr. Rabin's comments, made to the parliamentary foreign

affairs and defence committee, came a day after the Palestinian delegation removed a roadblock to the bilateral talks by towing down a demand Israel declare that the talks, like those with Syria, are in a context of land-for-peace.

The Jordanian and Palestinian delegations to the peace talks held a joint meeting with the Israeli delegation Wednesday upon a request by the Israeli delegation.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Abdul Salam Al Majali told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, following the meeting that the Israeli delegation proposed holding the next round of bilateral negotiations Oct. 21 and suggested holding contacts between the Jordanian and Israeli delegations when negotiations are in recess.

Dr. Majali said although the Jordanian and Palestinian delegation find it necessary to have the negotiations going on, the delegations will await the response of their governments on the date of the next round of talks.

Concerning keeping contacts on between rounds, he said, "We find it unnecessary and we cannot make contacts until we see clear progress in the negotiations."

On the Lebanese-Israeli front, Israel is seeking additional information regarding Lebanon's surprise disclosure that an Israeli airman missing for six years is believed to be alive.

Lebanese negotiators informed Israel earlier this week that aviator Ron Arad, whose jet fighter was shot down over Lebanon late in 1986, was believed to be alive, officials of both countries said Tuesday.

This followed rumors and assessments that Arab had long ago been killed by his captors. Lebanon's disclosure, in response to Israel's request for information this month, reflected an easing in the tense negotiations between the sides.

Israel's top negotiator, Uri Lubrani, said the Lebanese negotiators told him they did not know who was holding Arad or where.

"We were assured... that the Lebanese delegation would do whatever it can to pursue the matter to the best of its ability," Mr. Lubrani said.

Israel believes Arad is under Iranian control, Mr. Lubrani said, "and we believe Iran can help return him."

PLO seeks meetings with hardliners

TUNIS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hoping to heal internal rifts over peace talks with Israel, has invited critics to discussions in Tunis and hopes to follow up with a meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC).

The PCC sets policy guidelines for the PLO's Executive Committee between sessions of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

In Damascus, where key dissident groups are based, a Palestinian official said hardliners planned to send second-level leaders to Tunis on Sept. 25.

Participation of their top men would be considered later, he said.

PLO officials in Jordan reported that preparations were under way for a meeting of the PCC in early October. Sources at PLO headquarters in Tunis said the PCC meeting was possible but not definite.

The PLO supports and directs leading figures from the occupied territories in Washington peace talks with Israel.

Groups within the movement oppose the talks and their criticism has mounted as negotiators get down to specifics on self-rule.

said next week's meeting was being called specifically to discuss the outcome of sixth-round talks in Washington, which are expected to end this week.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Damascus wing of the Democratic Front (DFLP), say the self-rule plan under discussion in Washington sells out Palestinian interests.

They and eight other Palestinian groups announced last week they were joining forces against the peace process.

David Taltam, a member of the DFLP politburo, said the Tunis meeting would be attended by the DFLP and PFLP general secretaries, the PLO executive and the Washington negotiation team.

The PLO had invited PFLP leader George Habash, Nayef Hawatmeh of the DFLP and Khaled Al Fahoum, former speaker of the PNC.

The mainstream group Fatah, led by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, backs the Palestinian negotiators.

The PCC last met in Tunis in June.

Tuesday they were preparing to challenge the PLO's leadership. They said they had formed a "joint command" and were determined to reject and defeat the plan for autonomy rule.

In a joint statement the two groups said their leadership took the action after meeting to review developments in the peace talks.

The two factions are concerned about reports the PLO has authorised a new negotiating strategy said to be more flexible on demands for self-government for the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

"The two parties found that the retracting behaviour which is practiced by the negotiating team — with a cover from the leadership of the PLO — is in violation of national consensus and resolutions of the legitimate bodies of the PLO," the statement said.

The two factions promised to fight any settlement which would not guarantee "our people the right of return and to set up their own national state."

Both groups called for a Palestinian referendum to determine the future of the 10-month-old talks.

Rabin delays drop of PLO contacts ban

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has put off moves to lift Israel's ban on contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the justice ministry said Wednesday.

Ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed said "political implications" prompted Mr. Rabin to consult with cabinet ministers before putting the proposed change to parliament.

The Davar newspaper, affiliated with Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, said he was concerned that changing the law now would complicate Israeli-Palestinian peace talks under way in Washington.

He said Mr. Rabin told confidants that he feared allowing personal Israeli-PLO contacts would bring international pressure on Israel itself to negotiate directly with the PLO.

Israel has so far refused to negotiate with the PLO, long branding it a "terrorist" group bent on destroying Israel.

It negotiates with Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. They in turn conduct with the Tunis-based PLO.

The justice ministry has already drafted a change in the law that would permit contacts with the PLO so long as they did

not harm state security. The law banning contacts has been called anachronistic and "silly" by some of Mr. Rabin's Labour Party colleagues in light of PLO support for peace talks with Israel.

Mr. Eshed said the amended law would go to parliament after Mr. Rabin consulted with his cabinet and ministerial committees on defence and legislation.

He could try to delay legislation until Israel negotiates interim self-rule for the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories, which he hopes to complete within a year.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO
18:30 — Envoy Special
18:30 — Operation Mozart
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — Varieties
19:30 — News in Hebrew
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Empty Nest
21:00 — Gabriel's Fire
21:30 — News in English
22:30 — Movie of the week: "Babes"

PRAYER TIMES

05:43 — Fajr
06:20 — (Sunrise) Dhuha
12:28 — Dhur
18:30 — 'Asr
18:36 — Maghrib
19:53 — Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish
Tel. 510740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
637255
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Ch. of the Annunciation Tel.
674400.
St. In the Church Tel. 661757
Ternate Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel.
625433.
Assyrian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775611.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771251.
Assyrian International Church Tel.
827981, 683326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
811255.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-
Day Saints Tel. 823834 and 654932.
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of
Meteorology.
It will be fair to moderate and some
clouds will appear at various altitudes.
Winds will be northerly moderate, and
dusty in the desert. In Aqaba winds
will be northerly moderate and sea
calm.

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman
32, Aqaba 25. Humidity readings:
Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 35 per
cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Juma' — 752405
Dr. Mohamed A'ash — 752971
Dr. Jamil Marqah — 776149
Dr. Ghazi Zawahidh — 758011
First pharmacy — 651912
Ferdous pharmacy — 778336
Blood Bank — 775121
Al Asema pharmacy — 637055
Nawrothi pharmacy — 626272
Al Saham pharmacy — 636155
Yasouf pharmacy — 640945
Sunelast pharmacy — 677660
Najib pharmacy — 847632
DIBD:
Dr. Ahmad Bakhtawi — 273925
Al Sharaa' pharmacy (273925)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khassim Jabari — 955403
Razmi pharmacy — 955119
KARAK:
Dr. Nidal Masana — (—)
Mr's pharmacy — 352170

SALT:

Dr. Bashir Hiri — (—)
B's pharmacy — (—)

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department — 661111
Civil Defence Emergency — 690341
Rescue — 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade — 812228
Blood Bank — 775121
Highway Police — 843402
Traffic Police — 898990
Public Security Department — 630221
University Hospital — 628800
Prize Complaints — 661176
Water and Sewerage — 661467
Complaints — 661467
Amman Municipality — 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) — 121
Overseas Calls — 010230
Central Amman Telephone — 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs — 661101
Jordan Television — 773111
Radio Jordan — 774111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre — 812813/32
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn — 644281/6
Al-Shaikh Maternity, J. Amn — 644412/2
Al-Muhammadiyah Maternity — 622622
Malhas, J. Amman — 636140
Palestine, Shamsiyei — 664171/4
Shamsiyei Hospital — 669131
University Hospital — 628800
Al-Muhammadiyah Hospital — 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali — 666127/7
Al-Ash, Abdali — 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhammadiyah — 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh — 775111/25
Army, Marfa — 870111/15
Queen Alia Hospital — 622402/40
Al-Haram Hospital — 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Court, Hospital — (09)2323/3
Zarqa National Hospital — (09)90340
Ru Sina Hospital — (09)96732
Al-Haram Medical Hospital — (09)90990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA

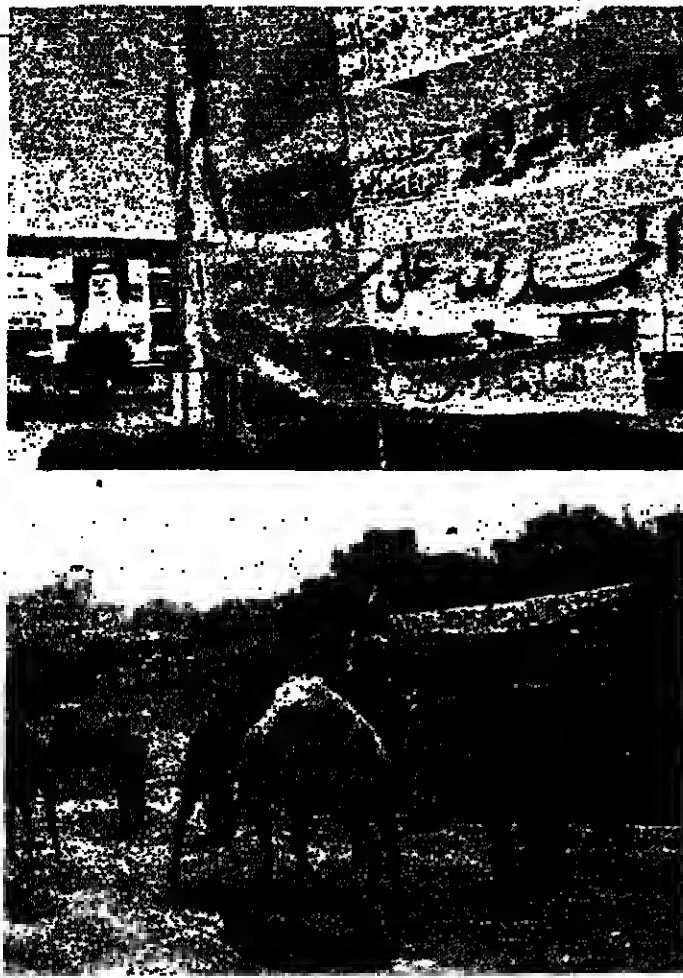
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
07:15 — Beirut (RJ)
07:45 — Rome (RJ)
12:00 — Tunis (RJ)
12:15 — Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 — Paris (RJ)
13:15 — Beirut (RJ)
13:15 — London (RJ)
13:30 — Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 — Cairo (RJ)
Aqaba, Dhamra (RJ)
21:45 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
22:15 — Beirut (RJ)
22:30 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
22:30 — Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45 — Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 — Madras (RJ)
DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
(Terminal 1)
07:15 — Beirut (RJ)
07:45 — Rome (RJ)
12:00 — Tunis (RJ)
12:15 — Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:00 — Paris (RJ)
13:15 — Beirut (RJ)
13:15 — London (RJ)
13:30 — Larnaca (RJ)
20:00 — Cairo (RJ)
Aqaba, Dhamra (RJ)
21:45 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
22:15 — Beirut (RJ)
22:30 — Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
22:30 — Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:45 — Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)
23:00 — Madras (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:00 — Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
14:10 — Riyadh (

Jordan rejoices over King's return



Premier opens new hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday inaugurated Amman Surgical Hospital, a 24-bed hospital which will offer several specialised surgeries.

Sharif Zeid was received at the hospital by its director Ghazi Farhan Shbeilat, members of the hospital's board of directors and its staff.

Sharif Zeid toured the hospital's units and sections and was briefed by Dr. Shbeilat on its equipment, of which some are used for the first time in Jordan. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Health Minister Aref Al Bataineh.

Arabiya meets with Iraqi minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat Wednesday received the Iraqi Awqaf and Islamic Affairs minister who is currently visiting Jordan.

Dr. Arabiyat said in a statement that the meeting discussed Jordanian-Iraqi relations and challenges facing the region. The meeting was attended by several deputies and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Noori Al Wayyes.

Charges against Shbeilat include conspiracy against the state, subversion and slander

By Jordan Times Staff reporters

AMMAN — Contrary to earlier reports, which said detained deputy Laith Shbeilat faced only one charge of transporting and possessing weapons, the chargesheet that was published yesterday reveals a range of charges from conspiracy to overthrow the regime to plotting to undermine Iraqi-Jordanian relations to slandering fellow members of Parliament and His Majesty the King.

The sheet, which was handed over to Mr. Shbeilat's lawyers and those of his associate deputy Yacoub Qarrash, lists Mr. Shbeilat as the first defendant, followed by Mr. Qarrash and two others, Ahmad Ayyoubi and Abdul Hamid Ismail Idkik. The two latter defendants are described as owners of a shop named "The World of Mirrors and Frames" in Jabal Hussein.

The chargesheet and an accompanying investigations dossier were handed over to the lawyers of the two deputies Tuesday to help them prepare their case during the week before the first trial session next Tuesday.

According to information obtained by the media until the fuller charges were announced Mr. Shbeilat was to face only a

charge of allowing — knowingly or unknowingly — his vehicle to be used for transporting arms and ammunition as well as explosives.

But the chargesheet made public late Tuesday gives seven distinct charges, starting with "affiliation with an illegal organisation — Al Nafeer Islamic Youth — which aims at changing the Kingdom's Constitution and overthrowing the regime by means of revolution and sabotage and assuming leading positions in the state."

Other counts include: "Encouraging others through writings and speeches to terminate the country's constitution, undertaking actions designed to undermine Jordan's relations with Iraq, possessing unlicensed automatic weapons and explosives intended for illegal activities, slandering members of parliament and making statements considered slanderous to His Majesty King Hussein."

According to the chargesheet, the idea of setting up Al Nafeer was born at a meeting in Tehran in 1990 attended by representatives of Islamic political parties and organisations, including Hizbullah, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC).

"Within that meeting, it was decided to set up religious group-

ings in all countries surrounding Israel, including Jordan, with the aim of establishing a caliphate-system of governments in these countries in line with the Iranian revolution's objectives," according to an unofficial translation of the chargesheet.

The document singles out Mr. Shbeilat as the one who was assigned to lead the group in Jordan. It explicitly states that Sheikh Qarrash set up a committee whose members were paid an average of JD 150 per month and an amount between JD 1,500 and JD 2,000 for the group's activities. The third and fourth defendants — Mr. Ayyoubi and Mr. Idkik — as well as another person named as Mahmoud Tayyem were members of the committee, it says.

The committee used to meet at Sheikh Qarrash's residence in Jabal Hussein as well as at the home of Mr. Idkik. The deputy used to wear a headscarf to mask his appearance lest he be recognised while attending the meetings outside his house, according to the chargesheet.

The document says that Mr. Shbeilat and Sheikh Qarrash "procured arms and ammunition... and explosives (TNT)... with finances provided by external sources known for their enmity towards Jordan."

It accuses the two of maintaining constant contacts with Iraqi opposition figures, including former Petra Bank Chairman Ahmad Chalabi and others, and informing them on Jordanian Parliament affairs and receiving instructions from them on how to approach issues tackled by the legislative authority. It says the accused used to send their speeches in Parliament to external parties claiming that the speeches were not carried by the Jordanian media.

The two deputies, according to the details in the chargesheet, provided Mr. Chalabi during the Gulf crisis with information about Jordan's "violations" of sanctions against Iraq as well as information on the Ameryiah shelter in which over 300 people were killed after it was bombed by the allied forces.

The chargesheet also quotes Mr. Shbeilat as making derogatory remarks about his colleagues in the Lower House but does not detail how it got the quote. The document, however, does point out that while searching Mr. Shbeilat's office, an album of pictures "which also carried writings and words in the handwriting of the first defendant in a manner which will touch the pride of His Majesty King Hussein."

Sharif Zeid receives Syrian, U.N. officials

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker conferred in his office Wednesday with Syrian Communication's Minister Mohammad Radwan Martini in presence of Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Sarareh, and reviewed the outcome of talks Mr. Martini held in Amman over the past few days. The talks ended Tuesday with the signing of an agreement on a regional communications linkage to ensure expanded communications services with the outside world.

The Prime Minister heard a briefing on the linkage project,

which will link Damascus and Dera, Syria, with Ramtha and Amman through a network of cables.

The network is expected to boost communications services between Jordan and Syria on the one hand, and between the two countries and Arab and foreign nations on the other.

The Prime Minister voiced Jordan's delight over the conclusion of the deal saying that the two Arab neighbour states maintain "unique relations as they together strive to attain integration in all fields."

Later the Syrian minister and his accompanying delegation left for home and were seen off by Mr. Sarareh and senior officials from the Ministry of Post and Communications.

Under the agreement signed by the two ministers Tuesday, each country will cover the cost of the network laid in its territory.

Also on Wednesday Sharif Zeid met with Major General Hans Christian, chief of the U.N. peace keeping forces in the Middle East, who is currently on a visit to Jordan at the end of his tour of duty in the area.

We extend our heartiest congratulations to:

His Majesty King Hussein Ben Talal & The Hashemite House, To The Hashemite Kingdom & Its People

With all our wishes to His Majesty for good health and welcome His Majesty the King's safe return to his Hashemite Kingdom and his people.

Mitsubishi Corporation
Amman - Branch
K. Sakishima - General Manager & staff



HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Tamimi back from Sudan

AMMAN (Petra) — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi has returned from a visit to Sudan where he met with Sudanese leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir. Mr. Tamimi said the Sudanese leader has expressed pride in Jordanian-Sudanese relations and has asked him to convey his greetings and best wishes to His Majesty King Hussein. While in Khartoum, the minister attended a meeting of the board of trustees of the Islamic Da'wa Organisation which was held between Sept. 16-18. The minister said that he also visited the International African University in Sudan and was familiarised with its activities and role in the development process.

Committee receives more donations

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian citizens and establishments continued to extend donations to Al Hussein Appeal Committee for Charity. The committee, which was formed in response to a call by His Majesty King Hussein recently, will distribute aid to the needy around the Kingdom.

Juwelber heads delegation to aviation conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the meeting of the general assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organisation which opened in Montreal, Canada, Wednesday. The general assembly will discuss in its meeting, which will last until Oct. 8, problems facing civil aviation, air transport and organising air transport routes. It will also discuss preparing a unified statement on the constant policies of civil aviation and the safety of air transport.

Balqa awareness campaign on water use ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A campaign launched by Al Balqa Education Department in cooperation with the governorate's Water Directorate to spread awareness among school students of the importance of rationalising water consumption concluded Wednesday. The campaign, which lasted for two weeks, included delivering lectures, distributing posters and pamphlets, showing documentary films and giving assignments for students on water situation in the governorate.

Jordan to attend ARABSAT meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the meetings of the 63rd Arab Space Communication Corporation (ARABSAT) to open in Damascus Thursday. The Kingdom will be represented at the meetings by Director General of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Ahmad Al Nawawi who left for Damascus Tuesday. The meetings are scheduled to discuss issues related to launching the second generation of Arab satellites in 1995.

Jordan Caritas distributes aid to Bani Hamideh poor

MADABA (J.T.) — Two hundred poor families living in the Bani Hamideh district near Madaba, some 35 kilometres south of Amman, Wednesday received gifts of foodstuffs donated by Jordan Caritas, a charity organisation established in Jordan in 1967.

Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh and Jordan Caritas Director Father Mousa Adell supervised the distribution of the foodstuffs.

In an address on the occasion, Dr. Mashagbeh said that the ministry was ready to provide social services to all citizens of Jordan in compliance with directives from His Majesty King Hussein and the government.

The ministry is also willing to contribute to vocational and rehabilitation projects benefiting the needy families whose monthly income does not exceed JD100, he said.

Referring to the King's financial contributions to the Bani Hamideh district which he announced during his recent visit to the region, the minister said that plans are being studied for the commencement of a medium size income-generating project financed by the King's donation.

The project, to be established in the Daba area, will create jobs for Bani Hamideh citizens, the minister said.

Meeting to evaluate Al Mashreq Project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Countries involved in the West Asia Regional Programme (WARP) also known as Al Mashreq Project will open a meeting here Saturday at the regional office of the International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA).

In the three-day meeting, various aspects of activities related to the Mashreq project conducted in the agricultural seasons of 1991 and 1992 will be reviewed.

The activities focused on increased productivity of barley, pasture and sheep in the rainfall zones of Syria, Jordan and Iraq, with emphasis on the transfer of available technology to farmers, according to the ICARDA office here.

A total of 25 delegates, all researchers from Jordan, Syria,

Turkey and Cyprus as well as ICARDA will be taking part in the discussions aimed at formulating an action plan to be implemented in the coming agricultural season.

ICARDA officials said that the delegates will be discussing means of improving fodder production, sheep fattening and training of technicians in addition to prospects of exchanging visits, by experts in a bid to promote integration among the various countries in the region, particularly Jordan, Syria and Iraq, where the Mashreq Project is being executed.

ICARDA had reported that barley production in Syria and Jordan in the 1990 agricultural season resulted in grain yield increases ranging from five to 100 per cent.

CONTRIBUTION

In celebration of His Majesty King Hussein's successful surgery and return to Jordan, the American Women of Amman have contributed JD 500 to the Jordan Cancer Society and JD 500 to needy families in Jordan.



AMMAN BACCALAUREATE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council of the Amman Baccalaureate School is having its **Fifth Annual Charity Fair** on Friday, September 25, 1992 on the school campus. There will be 2 fashion shows, lots of games, food and entertainment. Proceeds will go to Al Amal Centre for Cancer Patients.

So come and join the fun!



The Spanish Cultural Centre

announces the beginning of the fall (autumn) courses for all levels:

- ★ Registration starts as of Sept. 19, 1992.
- ★ Classes start Monday 28/9/1992 and will run for three months.
- ★ Classes will be held Saturday, Monday and Wednesday.
- ★ Three classes a week for each level.
- ★ Duration of session (period) 100 minutes.
- ★ The Spanish Cultural Centre offers excellent traineeship scholarships to study Spanish in Madrid during July of every year.

For further information, please call tel. 510858 - 524049 Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY CO. LTD.

AMMAN - JORDAN TENDER INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION AND BIDDING TENDER/5/92



Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd., announces tender invitation No. 5/92 for the supply, erection and commissioning of the requirements for Aqaba South Petroleum Installations Project which shall include building of eight crude oil and products storage tanks with a total capacity of (180,000 cubic metres), two spherical or equal storage tanks for LPG with a total capacity of (6,000 cubic metres), one fire fighting water tank with a total capacity of (5,000 cubic metres) and accompanying facilities including: steam boilers, ships unloading and loading as well as trucks loading facilities, roads, yards, offices, workshops and all civil, mechanical and electrical works related to the installations.

Contractors who possess experience in the same field and are qualified financially and technically and who wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 19/10/1992, at the company's head office. Prequalification documents should include the following:

1. Financial capability of the contractor, (financial references are to be provided).
2. Technical capability of the contractor, including details of experience and background of personnel, specifications of available equipment, etc.
3. Detailed documents showing similar projects executed by the contractor, full names and addresses of firms for whom such services were rendered, and details of projects including contract cost, and completion periods.

Results of prequalification shall be announced and advised to participants as soon as they become available. Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from the company's head office at the First Circle - Jabal Amman, against non-refundable JD (200) per set not later than Thursday 29/10/1992. Offers should be submitted only by the qualified contractors at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hours of Monday 18/11/1993.

Chairman Board of Directors

Jordan Times

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Welcome home

THE RETURN of His Majesty King Hussein to his home, country and people is developing into an overwhelming show of love and affection by Jordanians towards their leader, and rightly so. His brush with illness has obviously rekindled the tremendous confidence that the people of this country have for their King. His return with a clean bill of health is easily and naturally therefore a cause of profound relief and satisfaction.

As a token reflection of what all these mean to this country and its people, today has been officially proclaimed a public holiday. At the end of the day, no doubt the occasion will be regarded as yet another memorable milestone in King Hussein's reign on par with many previous historic opportunities that have characterised his rule.

Beyond the joy and celebrations lie of course many challenges that await the leader and his people, on both the domestic as well as the external fronts. With the peace talks producing hardly any tangible progress in spite of six rounds of negotiations, there is now a call for a reassessment of our negotiating strategy and tactics. There is now a strong possibility that U.S. President George Bush will not be reelected, in which case the peace process could be interrupted for at least some months pending the reevaluation of Washington's foreign policy by a new administration.

On the domestic level, Parliament may still be reconvened to conclude unfinished business. This might not be done as soon as early October perhaps. But with the resumption of Parliamentary life in the country, many pressing local issues could surface once again.

In all such situations and under all circumstances, His Majesty returns home with a stronger than ever mandate to provide leadership, wisdom and valuable experience on all outstanding issues and subjects facing the state. In return, he should expect positive and meaningful cooperation from his government and subjects but above all their understanding and appreciation of the high stakes involved. Most likely His Majesty will address his people soon upon his return to reassure them not only about the successful surgery that he has undergone but also about his hopes and expectations for the future. The best welcome that Jordanians can extend to their King and leader of 40 years is to share with him his thoughts, hopes and aspirations in a responsible way. The people know now more than ever the tremendous weight of responsibility that fall on the shoulders of their leader. The King obviously wants Jordanians to share this burden with him exactly like he wanted them to do after the beginning of the democratisation process and giving a new lease to our political and economic life. We join all the people of this country in expressing our sincerest feelings of happiness and joy upon his return. May God bless him and bestow upon him health and happiness.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily attacked the United States for expressing concern over reported Indian shipments of chemical materials to Syria, noting that Washington was intent on preventing Arab states from acquiring weapons to defend themselves from Israel's aggression. The daily said while the Arabs are being denied the right to acquire weapons, Israel is allowed to mass all types of chemical and nuclear weapons and all sorts of mass destruction weapons; and is being helped to maintain its occupation of Arab land and expand its domination by force and aggression throughout the Arab World. Before Syria, the United States and its western allies plotted against Iraq and launched aggression on the Arab country for daring to acquire scientific knowledge and arm itself against any attacks, noted the daily. It said that with the loss of Iraq's power, the Gulf states are left under the mercy of Iran, with all their agreements with the West and their weapons bought with billions of dollars from the West rendered futile. The paper said that Washington's expression of concern of India's shipment of chemical materials to Syria provides yet one more proof of U.S. continued policy of denying the Arabs the right to possess arms to defend themselves and also provides another clear evidence of Washington's determination to maintain its humiliation and contempt of the Arab and Islamic World. At present, the United States and the Western colonial powers, the paper concluded are joining hands with Iran — the new ally — in order to complete their domination of the Arab World.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday dismissed the agricultural situation in Jordan in light of recent reports about contaminated crops around the Khirbat Al Samra Wastewater Treatment Plant. If, as the minister of agriculture claims, the crops around the plant are not contaminated, why was the order given to destroy agricultural produce grown on 2,000 dunams in the area, asked Tareq Masarwah. It seems that the ministry is always taken by surprise by something, like the sudden increase of tomatoes, the banning of Jordanian crops from entering Saudi territory and the discovery of farmers growing produce near and around the Zarqa stream, said the writer. He said that ministry officials and inspectors seem to have failed in their duty to control the areas where crops should be grown and in enforcing a law on the treatment of all waste water flowing into the Zarqa stream from the waste water plant and the factories along the stream. One of the farmers, whose crops are to be destroyed, says that he had bought a water pump and a generator to work on the farmland where the crops are to be destroyed, noting that he obtained a loan for the equipment, said the writer.

Reflections

A spirit called Jordan

By Safwan Bataineh

A year and a half ago, on February 24, 1991, I wrote these lines: "In a world where Jordanians cannot live in dignity anywhere but in Jordan, where we are shunned and harassed as Arabs and, more specifically, as Jordanians, we cannot but retreat within our perimeters, mend the fences, and protect the homestead. Surrounded by so much hatred, treachery, and backwardness, a little jingoism may now be appropriate. Not so much a case of Jordan, love it or leave it! But more like the converse: if you cannot leave it, then you better love it."

With thick black fumes colouring the skies, and sand swirling from a still raging desert storm, I could hardly be blamed for wanting to turn my gaze away from the horizon. After all, a half million people have since sought refuge within the perimeters of this island of grace. Still, I fear I have missed the point entirely.

For Jordan is more than just a country, and more than a mere refuge from evil and fear. As home for the only regime in the Arab world with moral and historical legitimacy, it is the alter ego of Arabs everywhere — sometimes despised the way lost souls resent their conscience, but often longed for and idolised secretly.

Had Jordan not existed, Arabs would have needed to invent it. It serves as an icon for the wayward dreamers of Arab nationalism; to tuck away when indulging in delirious debauchery and to grope for in solitary moments of moral anguish. As an embodiment of deeply-cherished ideals and values, it is like the legendary and untroubled temple of hope, perched on top of the mountain, waiting for true believers to flock to it when the journey of sin has ended. And should the floods of history's judgement come before the sinners could reach deliverance, the temple would stand high above the rising tide, lights still shimmering. The last Arab fire to fizzle out; the last Arab monument to see the sun.

Jordan, therefore, has no perimeters and no fences — for how can one fence in a symbol or a spirit. It is a universal torch of

eternal flame to be carried by Jordanians and paraded proudly across the earth. As such, Jordanians are defined not by the pieces of paper they hold or the origin of their birth but by their commitment to the ideals espoused by the Hashemite leadership. Only in these terms can the unique-qualities of this nation be understood and the essence of all that is Jordan fully grasped. How else can one comprehend the strong human bonds which exist beneath a pluralistic surface? And how else can the enduring stability of a small nation facing a multitude of challenges and enemies be explained?

Today Jordanians, celebrate the arrival of their Monarch, spared by the merciful wisdom of God to carry the message for yet another day. It is both a day of joy and a time for reflection. Ever since the Hashemites fought the first battle for Arab unity and came to a temporary halt in these lands, Jordanians have assumed a special purpose in life. It is in recognition of this role that they have come to regard the constant sacrifice not as a burden of unequal proportion but as their special badge of honor.

More is required of them at this juncture of history. The Arab Nation and its way of life are in danger of total disintegration. Jordanians are called upon as citizens of the only working democracy in the Arab World to provide a shining example to Arab men and women everywhere of durable and productive political and economic systems. Time is running short, and the cumulative sins of Arabs are testing the patience of history.

It is in the darkest of hours that the spirit of the brave-glow brightest. The time has come for a showdown with destiny and triumph is the only outcome. With backs against the walls of Arab failings, Jordanians will fight their final and finest battle against backwardness, treachery, and defeatism. It will be their moment of glory and history will change its course.

Long live the King and may the spirit of Jordan glow eternally.

Anti-Bush feelings dominate election, help Clinton

By Irwin Arief
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Despite President George Bush's efforts to shift the election focus to family values and "trust," most voters see the contest as a referendum on his handling of the economy and his giving Bill Clinton the edge for victory.

"It's still an open race, but it's becoming much more difficult each and every day (for the president) because there is so much anti-Bush sentiment out there," said Republican pollster Glen Bolger.

"I don't know if there's anything you can do to turn that around — because it's so strong," Mr. Bolger said of voters' negative feelings about Bush just six weeks before the November 3 ballot.

That striving to overcome Mr. Bush's negatives and offset Mr. Clinton's steady 10-to-15 point polling leads helps explain why the Bush campaign spends so

much time and energy trying to make his rival unpalatable to voters by focusing on his draft record and the overall issue of his character.

Analysts such as Mr. Bolger say the alternative course — trying to change voters' views of the president — would be tougher.

"What voters are saying is that they are going to go out and vote against Bush on November 3. It would be easier if it was a pro-Bill Clinton vote, because then you could give them reasons why they should vote against Clinton," Mr. Bolger said.

Mr. Clinton, on the other hand, appears to be taking a risk with his apparent strategy of trying to coast until November 3. To be sure, the Democratic nominee's polling leads have remained remarkably stable over the past two months despite constant hammering from the Republican camp.

Although there are signs the race is tightening, Mr. Bush's

support seems to be stuck at around the 40 per cent level.

"It seems like there's a glass ceiling for Bush," says Mr. Bolger.

But six weeks of campaigning adds up to a lifetime in presidential politics, and most analysts remain convinced the race will tighten before election day.

Mr. Clinton has promised to fight on "until the last dog dies" and, like Mr. Bush, he sees himself as being at his best when his back is against the wall.

Nonetheless, Mr. Clinton seems to wax and wane in his determination to wage war against his Republican opponent.

Compared to the weeks immediately following the mid-July Democratic national convention and the mid-August Republican convention, his current pace at times seems lackadaisical.

His first campaign event of the day often does not occur until mid-afternoon, and he spends considerable time out of public view at the governor's mansion in Little Rock, the Arkansas state

capital.

On the issue of his youthful efforts to avoid the Vietnam-era military draft — and whether he has been candid about it — Mr. Clinton has pursued an especially risky course by trying to ignore Republican broadsides in hopes the controversy will simply go away.

He says lingering questions about how he avoided the draft don't amount to "a hill of beans" and he is trying to keep the focus on the economy.

His decision to shy from the draft issue allows even vice president Dan Quayle — who avoided combat in Vietnam by using family connections to get a safe slot in the Indiana National Guard — to attack him on it.

"You have Bill Clinton that has not told the truth. He has vacillated, he has dodged this issue," Mr. Quayle has said repeatedly on NBC's "meet the press."

But on virtually every other issue, Mr. Clinton has been fast to respond to Mr. Bush's attacks with a counterpunch.

Prospect of 'two-speed' Europe worries Germany

By Tom Henehan
Reuters

BONN — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's vision of a single united Europe could give way to a "two-speed Europe" or a patchwork of agreements short of the union the Maastricht Treaty envisaged, worried German politicians say.

France's paper-thin majority for Maastricht, last week's currency turmoil and the resurgence of Britain's euro-sceptics all point to an unravelling of the idealised goal that Bonn originally sought, they told Reuters.

Germany still wants as much integration as possible but may now find it will not come in clear leaps forward or broad programmes that pull all EC members along.

"We will soon have a two-speed Europe," said one foreign affairs expert, using the phrase meaning a core of strong economies pushing forward while weaker ones fall behind.

Another specialist, who like the first asked not to be named to avoid the impression Bonn was giving up on Maastricht, said Europe might have to opt for patchwork integration.

"Maastricht already has an element of 'Europe à la carte' with its opting-out clauses and strict rules for which countries can join the monetary union," he said.

This is not the official line in Bonn and Mr. Kohl made sure in his reaction to the French referendum that he stressed he still wanted a joint approach on all issues.

"The path to a political union in Europe remains a common one," he said on Monday after discussing ways for the EC to have another try at selling Europe to sceptical voters.

Finance Minister Theo Waigel tried to dispel the view that last week's currency turmoil, which led to devaluations of sterling, the lira and the peseta, already meant Europe's monetary future was developing along unequal lines.

"I wouldn't like to talk about a two-speed Europe but just about



giving the chance to those countries that fulfil the criteria," he said.

The goal of an ever more perfect European Union, a policy with such wide support here that critical questions are treated as near-heresy, has come in for more scrutiny in the press.

"In reality, nobody wants this united state (of Europe) but everybody has been acting since the departure of (French President Charles) de Gaulle as if he did," the newsweekly Der Spiegel wrote on Monday. "Most people have agreed to this swindle and self-deception."

The Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper said: "Events have proven wrong all those, especially in Germany, who thought the

nation-state was ripe for the garbage heap of history."

Ever since the defeat of the Third Reich, politicians here have firmly believed the only way for Germany to prosper was to reject a narrow view of the country's interests and work in concert with its neighbours.

Consensus within the EC and NATO was to finally slay the spectre of the "Alleingang," the tendency to "go it alone" that characterised foreign policy in Germany's aggressive past.

But German unification in 1990 upset the fine balance in the EC, making Germany bigger than other large members and prompting it to take steps — like backing breakaway Yugoslav republics and increasing interest rates

to fight unity-induced inflation — that strained ties with its partners.

Karl Lamers, foreign policy spokesman for Mr. Kohl's Christian Democrats, said EC leaders learned from their disagreements over Yugoslavia that they could not drift too far apart even if they did not win popular support for the Maastricht treaty.

Mr. Kohl, who normally launches EC initiatives with Mr. Mitterrand, was the only European figure left who could now lead a renewed campaign for more integration.

But that could turn out to be a very tricky job for a German to pull off after many anti-German feelings had been aroused in recent weeks.

Middle East writers holding controversial debates in London

By Samira Kassar
Special to the Jordan Times

LONDON — Under the enticing title of "News From The Middle East," a week-long series of debates dealing with issues of Arab cultural identity, feminism, Arab writers living abroad and other intellectual topics opened at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) here Tuesday.

ICA has invited 29 writers, critics and intellectuals, most of them from the Arab World, to take part in the debates, which are being sponsored by Waterstone's Booksellers as a way of bringing writers from different parts of the world together with their readers.

The event, however, has taken on a controversial nature because of the involvement of the Israeli embassy's cultural section in contributing to the costs of the event, and at least one of the participants, who had not been aware of that involvement when he agreed to take part, withdrew on Monday in protest.

Influential Egyptian writer Edward Al Kharrat notified the ICA in writing of his intention to withdraw from the debate entitled "Cultural Authenticity and Arab Identity" scheduled for next Saturday.

Mr. Al Kharrat left London for Oxford and was not immediately available for comment, but his close friend and host Naser Farhali said that Mr. Al Kharrat had withdrawn from the entire event "because of the financial sponsorship of the Israeli embassy."

He added that Mr. Al Kharrat, who arrived in London last Friday, and other participants, had not been given a full list of sponsors before arriving in London, and he anticipated that other Arab participants would also withdraw on finding out that the Israeli embassy was involved in financing the cultural event.

A pamphlet outlining the programme of "News From The Middle East" thanked several bodies "for their generous contributions" without specifying what

each body had contributed. The list included the cultural section of the Israeli embassy.

ICA spokeswoman Jane Cornwall said that the institute had received "a small donation from the cultural section at the Israeli embassy," but added that she was unable to disclose the amount of the donation.

The list of 13 contributors also includes the Kuwaiti writer Souad Al Sabah and the London-based pro-Saudi Arabic newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat, which, by virtue of its contribution, has managed to ban all other Arab newspapers from publishing the texts of papers given at the conference or the transcripts of any of the debates.

The prominent Damascus-based writer Abdul Rahman Munif, who is a well-known Saudi dissident, informed ICA last week that he would not be travelling to London to participate in two seminars for which his name had been stated. The IC said he had pleaded ill-health. A member of his family in Damascus reached by phone confirmed that Mr. Munif was unwell. A said he had no information to effect that the Israeli embassy the pro-government Saudi Sharq Al Awsat newspaper contributed to the seminars. I added that he would "not be inclined to comment on this sject at this time."

Mr. Munif had been scheduled to participate in a seminar Wednesday with leftist ICA Tareq Ali, who produced a weekly-acclaimed television programme about Mr. Munif and writings on political repression Saudi Arabia. His name appears with the names of participating in Saturday's debate "Cultural Authenticity Arab Identity."

Other participants in the long series of debates include famous Egyptian writer feminist Dr. Nawal Al Saad and the writer and critic, Professor Edward Said, who is slated to take part in a seminar titled "Universalism, Id and the Writer in the World" on Friday.

LETTERS

His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan

To the Editor:

THIS IS a man who is from the people and for his people

This is the father, brother and friend of all his people.

This is a man who has carried the hopes, burdens and dreams of the one Jordanian family.

This is a man who sweetened the bitterness and smiled at it hardships even when they were back breaking.

This is a man who has entered every heart and home and who will always reside in them.

This is a man who has worked with the farmers ploughing the roughness and sowing the seeds of development.

This is the builder who laid the first bricks in the Jordanian society.

This is a man who is tolerant and humble and who respects his people, their abilities and their limitations.

This is a man who sings the same longing song of his people who thinks the same thoughts and who believes in the same principles.

This is an Arab who rebelled against the limitations of a small and poor country and who fought the fetters of colonialism.

This is an Arab who is continuously advocating the Arab cause and calling for Arab unity.

This is a man who will never rest till a just peace is implemented in this region.

This is a man who continues to give without asking for anything in return.

This is a man who will never give up the Jordanian dream.

This is why we are celebrating his return.

This is why we love him.

It is only a little compared to what he has done and to what he will continue to do.

Nada Majali,
Amman.

What justification?

To the Editor:

Now that the principle of "Land for Peace" has become an integral part of Israel's strategy that calls for the establishment of a Palestinian entity, peace advocates and supporters of the "peace process," Arabs, Israelis and Westerners alike are found grabbing with a quandy.

Israel which accepts to be referred to as the bastion of practiced democracy in the Middle East has 18 per cent of its population, Palestinian Arabs, who do participate in Israeli parliamentary elections but are not represented in the Israeli negotiating team, in line with the joint Jordanian/Palestinian delegation?

Is there an answer to this quandary, or at least an acceptable, albeit not a convincing justification?

Ludwig W. Tamarit,
Washington D.C.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Far And Away with Tom and Nicole Cruise

By Robert Shelton

LONDON — This seems to be the season of real-life romance returning to Hollywood. Last spring, we had the smiling superstar Warren Beatty introducing his wife Annette Bening to the world, as they promoted their film *Bugsy*.

Now it's the turn of another superstar, Tom Cruise, to beam in interviews as he introduces the world to his 24-year-old Australian actress wife, Nicole Kidman. What better way for stars to greet their adoring public than to also be touting a new film in which both appear?

Far And Away is an epic film about a pair of Irish runaways who find land, love and liberty in America 100 years ago.

The large-scale film may not have received accolades from all the critics, but it has proven the global popularity of lean, handsome, dark-haired Cruise and Nicole, with her long, ringletted ginger-coloured hair.

They first appeared in the racing-car action film *Days Of Thunder* two years ago. It was during that filming that the couple fell in love. They were soon headed for marriage, *Christmas 1990*. "I had no doubt from the minute I got married that it was going to be my only marriage," Nicole said recently.

Behind the glitter, glamour and romance, are two dedicated and hard-working actors seriously concerned with their craft and with

choosing the right films. Cruise has been proving himself increasingly as a gifted actor. He startled critics with the depth and perception of his bravura performance as a crippled American soldier in *Born On The Fourth Of July*. Cruise added to his stature in the complex role of Dustin Hoffman's brother in *Rain Man*.

Two years ago, Kidman burst on the film world as a woman trapped on a sailboat adrift with a psychopath in *Dead Calm*. Her earlier work on Australian TV had catapulted her career in a fictional series, *Vietnam*.

In *Far And Away*, Cruise plays Joseph Donnelly, a dispossessed poor farmer who wants revenge against the landlord responsible for the death of his father. The landlord turns out to be the father of Kidman's character, Shannon Christie. Although she is frightened at first by this rough, avenging yokel, she sees him as useful to her long-held plan to "escape her over-protected life and to journey to America. She takes him on as her serving-boy."

Scenes of immigrant life in Boston in 1892 are among the best in *Far And Away*. No streets of gold greet them, so Joseph becomes a boxer to survive, while Shannon is reduced to plucking chickens to earn her supper.

The film was inspired by a tragic song from the Irish folk group, the Chieftains. Ron Howard, the director and co-writer of *Far And Away*, says: "It's easy to be daunted by the hugeness of events in the film. That's why we kept the focus on the human level. The immigrants who settled the American west weren't

always remarkable individuals, but their adventures made them remarkable."

Even though the films Cruise has made in the last 10 years have grossed more than \$1.5 billion worldwide, he still confesses to suffering from nervous jitters. "Every time I start to do a picture, without fail, I feel as if I don't know what I'm doing."

The 30-year-old star worked very hard at cultivating an Irish accent for the role with a dialect coach, Tim Monich. As filming moved to its big climax, Cruise's nerves were settled and he was able to join the high-action race to win land in the Oklahoma Territory, a scene that involved 800 extras, 400 horses and 200 wagons.

Cruise, who was previously married to Hollywood actress Mimi Rogers, is currently looking for scripts in which he can both star and direct. He says he thrives on the stimulus of new challenges, and seeks the control over his films that that directing would provide.

Nicole Kidman was born in Hawaii and says "people invariably laugh when I tell them that." Kidman is descended from a father of Irish lineage and her mother is Scots-English. Her first taste of the footlights came at the age of 5 in a school play. The following year, she played a sheep, and now recalls: "I bleated right through the whole show — baa, baa, baa!"

Her first meeting with Tom left her with an indelible impression of a man of "powerful energy." *Days Of Thunder*, she told a reporter, "we just wanted to be together," even if leaving friends and family in Australia was difficult. "Relationships require constant work," Nicole says. "But we are both willing to work, and that makes me think we'll last a long time."



Newly married, and star of an epic movie about Irish immigrants to the U.S. 100 years ago, Tom Cruise looks forward to trying his hand at directing

lia was difficult. "Relationships require constant work," Nicole says. "But we are both willing to work, and that makes me think we'll last a long time."

The couple realise they can't make every film together, and Nicole's next role is a solo flight without her husband. It's a crime thriller called *Damages*, with George C. Scott, and it's about an insurance conspiracy. Her romantic lead will be Alec Baldwin.

Tom Cruise with his wife, actress Nicole Kidman

Author of Many-Splendored Thing looks back at 50 years of writing

By Hanns Neunerborg
The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — When she started writing 50 years ago, Zhou Kuanghu decided Westerners would have problems pronouncing her name.

So she took the pen name of Han Suyin, "which everybody is able to pronounce," and which roughly translates as "a very ordinary sound."

It ceased to be a fitting pseudonym in 1952 when her second book, *A Many-Splendored Thing*, catapulted her onto international best-seller lists.

Han Suyin has long since reached that coveted stage at which an author's name dwarfs the title on the book cover. More than 30 books, translated into many languages, mark her career as novelist, historian, social activist and lecturer.

In an interview at her

Lausanne home, she expressed pride that all her books have been published in China, even though she has been candidly critical of some aspects of Communist rule.

The first four volumes of a combined autobiography and history of China were launched at a "tremendous ceremony" in Peking last spring with 1,500 people attending. The series, begun in 1965, is widely considered must reading for students of China.

She is sure that the latest volume, *Wind In My Sleeve*, which is due out in September, also will be available in China, even though it covers the years from 1977 through 1991, including the bloody 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

"I lectured about democracy in China just about three weeks before the whole thing started," she said. "I told them that we need democracy and there must be political

reforms, but... it has to be done step by step."

Han Suyin said she cautioned Communist Party leaders that they were opening up China too fast. At the same time, she said, the students shouldn't have escalated their demands.

The crackdown "cannot be the end, but the beginning of something which has to be done," she writes. "And I know my people enough to know that they are learning, learning the lesson."

Her next book, due out in 1993, will be a biography of the late Premier Chou En-Lai. She first met him in 1956 and she considers him "one of the greatest men in history."

Han Suyin was born to a Belgian mother and a Chinese father in Sinyang, Henan province, and grew up in Peking. Seeing poverty and sickness around her, she decided to become a doctor,

completing her studies in Brussels and London. But she gave up her medical practice long ago to pursue writing.

Her romance with British journalist Mark Elliott, who was killed during the Korean War, was the basis of *A Many-Splendored Thing*, which came out in 1952. It was turned into a movie three years later, starring Jennifer Jones and William Holden.

According to Western reference books, she will be 75 on Sept. 12. But she insists she is already 76 by Chinese count, which starts from conception.

She has no TV or radio but she reads magazines and daily newspapers from six countries, including the United States and China.

Since 1956, she has been married to her third husband, retired Indian Colonel Vincent Ruthnaswamy, who travels with her to China.



Han Suyin

Her energy seems inexhaustible, but she says she has cut down on her lecture engagements in the West.

Han Suyin, who visits her homeland at least twice a year to keep up her contacts and to lecture on topics ranging from desecration to AIDS prevention, is a fervent defender of China's right to find its own way.

Although she has discussed

cases of torture, female infanticide and arranged marriages in her writings about China, she thinks that the West is using double standards.

"I think the time has come for everybody, especially for the United States, to realise it is best to try not to be too Evangelistic, not to try to change everybody," she said.

Peter Mansfield

Princess Anne — an unlikely royal heroine

By Anne Senior
Reuters

LONDON — In popularity polls about junior members of the British royal family one princess invariably commands public respect.

Princess Anne, Queen Elizabeth's only daughter, is almost as popular as her sister-in-law Diana, Princess of Wales, and sometimes wins even more accolades.

A 42-year-old divorcee, Princess Anne is an unlikely success story in the British monarchy. But her individualistic style could point the way forward for members of the royal family who seek more than merely a decorative role.

Unstylish, forthright to the point of rudeness, she has refused to pander to the public to rally their support.

It should be a recipe for a

public relations disaster — and in her early years she did suffer a reputation as "princess sourpuss".

But she has since gone from strength to strength. Princess Diana enjoys the image of an elegant, devoted wife and mother. Princess Anne's persistent popularity suggests that some Britons still prefer the traditional, aloof image of the royal family.

Even the tabloid press, quick to pounce on any sign of moral weakness among the royals, has shown an unexpected admiration for the no-nonsense princess who recently divorced her husband of 18 years. Newspapers are speculating that she may be about to marry naval officer Timothy Laurence.

"She has never been the most glittering of royals but

in her deliberate low-key way she has become a strong and effective member of the family," the *Today* newspaper said in an editorial tribute to Princess Anne this month.

"This makes her a fine role model for younger members. She deserves a happy future."

These were rare words of praise in a season of royal ridicule which has finally destroyed the reputation of "Fergie", the Duchess of York, and even penetrated the saintly aura surrounding Princess Diana, nicknamed "Princess perfect".

Sarah "Fergie" Ferguson, estranged wife of Prince Andrew, never quite carried off her royal role and faced a final humiliation by the press last month when she was photographed topless kissing a male friend.

Princess Diana, meanwhile, has been revealed to be an unhappy wife who may have encouraged the attentions of male admirers as her 11-year marriage to Prince Charles cooled.

Princess Anne has always tried to keep her domestic life private, allowing few details to emerge of her reported romance with Laurence, a former royal attendant.

Court circulars are full of her routine engagements, officiating, for example, as president of the Knitwear Council, while her brothers can go for days, even weeks, without appearing on the official court diary.

Princess Anne's job as president of the Save The Children Fund has been a major factor in her rehabilita-

tion, attracting both contributions and publicity for the charity.

"Everyone recognises that she is not a mere figurehead," said a fund spokesman.

Such work appears to have insulated Princess Anne from criticism that the royal family sets a poor moral example and gives less value for money than a presidency. Her divorce in April from Captain Mark Phillips caused barely a ripple of disapproval.

A popularity poll in January had Princess Anne level pegging with her mother on 15 per cent, behind Princess Diana who was chosen by 29 per cent of the sample as their best-loved member of the royal family. However, 69 per cent thought Princess Anne the most hard-working, compared with only 49 per

cent for the queen and 46 per cent for Princess Diana.

Britons are not asked to choose a favourite but to pass judgement on individual members of the royal family. Princess Anne has about the same approval rating as Princess Diana, around 80 per cent.

However, the debate over whether Britain can afford a monarchy may still affect the princess, who is eighth in line to the throne, and her £228,000 (\$422,000) annual expenses payment from the state.

If, as some newspapers predict, the queen is forced to accept a reduction in the family's pay packet, Princess Anne could have to look elsewhere for financial backing or review her role as a star attraction on the charity circuit.

BOOK REVIEW

Iron hand in a velvet glove

Postmodernism And Islam: Promise And Predicament

By Akbar S. Ahmad
Routledge, London 1990, £10.00

This is an important and necessary book and it is hard to see how it could have been better done. Professor Ahmad, now a fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, was in the 1980s commissioner of Makram, a remote area of Pakistan's Baluchistan province. While his Islamic identity and scholarship have never been in doubt he has proved here to have a formidable knowledge of Western culture and civilisation. Some of it he admires, some appals him, but he never underestimates its strength even in the post-modernist age when the very Western concepts of modernity and social progress are increasingly in doubt. Above all he is always courteous. The iron hand of the writer remains in a velvet glove.

As the title implies, Professor Ahmad is primarily concerned with present and future relations between Islam and the West, and he has a special interest in the ten million Muslims living as minorities in Western countries, but one of his central themes is that no part of the contemporary Islamic World is immune to Western popular culture through the awesome power of the media. Islam can no longer retreat into mountain redoubts: Saudi Arabia is strewn with satellite dishes. Muslims cannot benefit from the advantages of Western technology without some of the rest which goes with it.

However, he cannot ignore the roots of the conflict and in a scintillating chapter "Greek gods and Semitic prophets" he argues that while Judaism and Christianity stayed with their Greek heritage, Islam, after helping to pass it on through its great philosophers such as Avicenna and Averroes, eventually turned away. On the whole he seems glad. He contrasts the balance and compassion (adl and ihsan) which he sees as the essence of Islam with the Greek's addiction to sex and war, their worship of physical beauty and racial purity and Platonic fascism (although surely it was Aristotle who recommended the golden mean in all the virtues). But as always his own judgement is balanced. He admits that Islam has suffered not so much from its rejection of Greek thought as of the "Greek receptivity to new ideas" — the closing of the gate of ijtihad. Not the least of the author's virtues is his willingness to combine admission of gigantic errors on his side with his devastating criticisms of Western hostility based on ignorance. He stands about as far as possible from the humourless self-righteousness of the fundamentalist bigot, whether it is a Western secular liberal or an incandescent imam.

Ahmad thinks that Edward Said's *Orientalism*, while addressing a real phenomenon, is too unsympathetic to the great Western orientalist scholars, while he sees the defects of an "occidentalism" among Muslims with a prejudiced and limited view of the West. He welcomes the emergence of a group of "post-orientalist" academics in the West — mainly in the U.S.

It is not surprising that someone of such brilliance combined with intellectual modesty, constantly searching for the truth, should change his moods. In this book he shifts between optimism and pessimism. At one point he says that Muslims living as a minority, whether in Britain or India, "must never be seen as sulking strangers: They must participate... In turn, the non-Muslim majority will perhaps begin to respond and the movement towards a genuine harmony can begin." But in his somewhat apocalyptic conclusion he sees a titanic struggle between two cultures — secular materialism and belief — and although this is not necessarily identical with the confrontation between Islam and the West it has all the signs of becoming so. For Muslims the danger is that the onslaught comes when they are at their weakest, as "corrupt rulers, incompetent administrators and feeble thinkers mark their societies." Readers may question some of Professor Ahmad's observations but it would be astonishing if anyone who cares about his subject did not find him enthralling. As when reading a classic novel, I was sad to reach the end — *Middle East International*.

Peter Mansfield

Heroin use up as supply, purity rise

By Tony Rogers
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Heroin use, stagnant for years as users turned to cocaine, is on the rise again as the drug enters the country in greater quantities and hits the streets at lower prices and at more lethal levels than ever, experts say.

The influx of cheaper, purer heroin could ensnare a new generation of addicts, experts warn.

"Cocaine use will drop like a stone, heroin use will come up," said Mark Kleiman, of the Federal Office of National Drug Control Policy. "I'm taking all bets on having more heavy heroin users than cocaine addicts by the turn of the century."

Mr. Kleiman, an associate professor at Harvard University's Kennedy School of

Government, said a recent boom in South East Asian opium production has pushed down the cost of heroin, from about \$2 per pure milligram for the decade ending in 1987 to about 90 cents last year.

With a burgeoning supply, dealers aren't mixing the drug with other substances as much. So the purity of heroin sold on the street has risen from about 10 per cent to more than 40 per cent in many cities in the past few years, making it more addictive and dangerous, Mr. Kleiman said.

Some cities are already seeing the effects.

Earlier this month, Boston hospitals handled 14 overdoses in two days, one of them fatal. Police confiscated heroin with a purity of 65 per cent — the highest ever seen in the northeast, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Sept. 24

8:30 Empty Nest

Roots

9:10 Gabriel's Fire

Birds Gotta Fly

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Babies

The story of three ladies who want to have babies.

Friday, Sept. 25

8:30 Golden Girls

9:10 The Good Guys

10:00 News In English

10:20 El C.I.D.

11:00 The Powers That Be

Saturday, Sept. 26

8:30 Super Bloopers

Embarrassing, funny situations and practical jokes on TV celebrities.

9:00 Life On The Land

9:10 Varieties

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Return To Justice

Starring: Richard Lynch and Griffin O'Neal

Two American journalists go to Colombia to cover a news story. The two are kidnapped and the people in the area come to their help.

Sunday, Sept. 27

8:30 Coach

Old Fish And The Shoes

9:10 Documentary: Japan Dreaming

Japan Dreaming takes a remarkable technological journey through Japan's culture and changing landscape.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Midnight Caller

Play Blotto And Die

Monday, Sept. 28

A romantic, and tragic, love story of an American soldier and a French girl during World War II.

8:30 Close to Home

While The Vet's Away

9:10 Gone To The Dogs

10:00 News In English

10:20 Code And Cyphon

The Language Of Music

Tuesday, Sept. 29

8:30 Acropolis Now

9:00 Mr. Bean

9:30 TEX

People don't really change they just grow up.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film

Act Of Love

Starring: Kirk Douglas

A romantic, and tragic, love story of an American soldier and a French girl during World War II.

Wednesday, Sept. 30

8:30 Saved By The Bell

9:10 Wednesday Forum

9:30 Chiedo

Fated Fate

10:00 News In English

10:20 Bangkok Hilton

Catherine is caught in Bangkok for drug trafficking.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shaukat

* DID YOU KNOW?

Elephants have been said to live for a century or so, but the most reliable records show that 60 to 70 years are more likely. The only other animal that could beat that age is a tortoise. A few of these are known to have reached as much as 150 years.

The ancient Egyptians domesticated cats and made them pets, over 400 years ago. Indeed, cats were worshipped as gods.

A grizzly bear inhabits parts of Canada and Alaska. It can be over three metres long and weight over 360 kg (800 lbs). It eats bison and cattle, and tries to catch salmon. On the whole, however, it does not like human flesh.

The Walloons are people living mostly in the south-east of Belgium who speak a kind of French. There are about three million of them. They are descended from ancient Celtic tribes who came under Roman influence.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

TIME

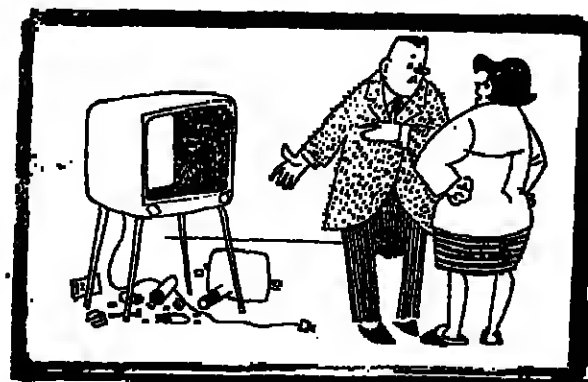
Second Minute
Hour
Half an hour
Quarter an hour
Clock
Day
Week
Month
Year
Century
Age
Calendar
Period
Epoch
Morning
Afternoon/evening

Thanis
Daqiga
Sa'a
Nisf sa'a
Rub'a sa'a
Sa'a kabira
Yawn
Osbo'
Shahr
Sana
Qarn
Asr
Taqqum
Fatra
Ahd
Sabah
Masa'

USEFUL PHRASES

What time is it? *Kam al waqt?*
It's nine o'clock. *Asa'a tis'a.*
It's half past twelve. *Asa'a at thanis asha wan nif.*
It's ten past seven. *Asa'a assabi'a wa-ashri daqa'iq.*
It's quarter past two. *Asa'a al-thaniya war-ruba.*
It's twenty-five past three. *Asa'a thalitha wa-khamisa wa-iskroon daqiga.*
It's twenty to five. *Asa'a khamisa illa ashroon daqiga.*
It's quarter to four. *Asa'a rabi'a war-ruba.*
It's ten to eleven. *Asa'a al-hadiya asha wa-ashar daqa'iq.*
It's five past one. *Asa'a wahida wa-khamis daqig.*
It's twenty past six. *Asa'a as-sadiss wa-ashroon daqiga.*

JOKES AND CRACKS



"When did your TV set go wrong?"
"When our son began to go to radio-engineering classes."

"During one of the lectures, a baby began to cry. So his mother took him out of the hall. The lecturer stopped her."

saying: "Go back to your place, madam. The baby's cry doesn't bother me."
"I know," the lady answered back, "But your loud voice annoys him."

It is the man who often speaks during the engagement period while the woman pretends to listen. At the time of marriage the bride talks whereas the bridegroom listens. Afterwards both speak and the neighbours become the listeners.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

Napoleon Bonaparte used to while away his time by solving puzzles and riddles. He possibly wasted several hours to produce one that his friends would never be able to solve.

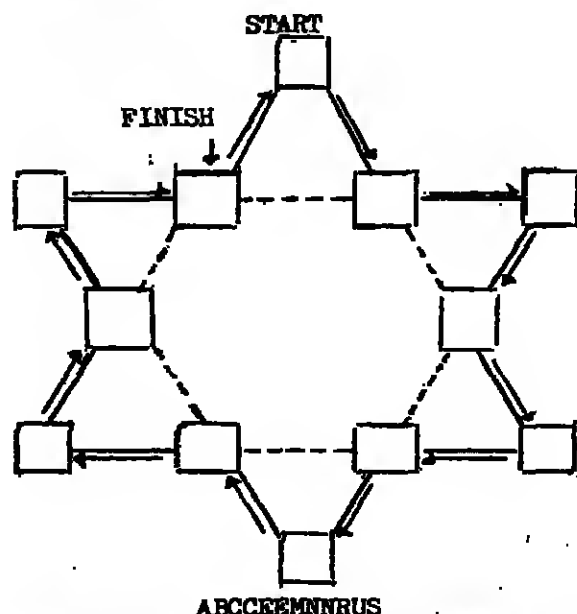
George Washington was very fond of catching foxes. Whenever he caught one, he took it home and began to teach it some games.

Schiller, the German poet, had the custom of immersing his feet in snow water and leaning on his writing table to put down new ideas that suddenly would occur to his mind. Strangely enough, his study room was filled with the smell of rotten apples.

Milton, the English poet, could never collect his thoughts unless his head and body were completely buried in pillows and bedsheets.

PUZZLE

Reading clockwise:



The twelve letters given below the diagram can be so arranged in the square — one in each square — that an English word of twelve letters, reading in the direction of the arrows, is formed.

Furthermore, the letters which then appear in the squares forming the central hexagon (indicated by a dotted line) can be rearranged to make another word meaning certain West Indians.

Can you find the two words?

* TEST YOUR GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- When was the International Court of Justice established?
- Where is it located?
- Why was the "Golden Number" so called?
- What are the different names given to the clubs used in playing golf?
- How did the name "Great Britain" come to be used?
- What is meant by the "Gordian Knot"?
- When did the "Great Fire" of London break out and how?
- What does the seven pointed star incorporated in Jordan's flag symbolise?

Solutions on page D.

My Dentist

By E. Yaghi

The following is not intended to slight any conscientious dentist in the world but merely to give testimony of my own deficiencies. Some people go through life hampered with a phobia of one thing or another. One of my phobias is the sensation of vertigo or a dizzy feeling when standing on a very high place and looking down into a presumably black bottomless pit. The other phobia I have acquired is to be at the end of that bottomless pit and under the stern gaze of a dentist scrutinising my irreparable mouth. I understand that most dentists are really nice ordinary folks who dedicate their lives and professions to improve the appearance and health of their patients' oral cavities but for some indiscernible reason, the very word d-e-n-t-i-s-t strikes a cord of fear that leaves every bone in my body rattling, not to mention the stake driven through my heart or the dagger ripping through my mind.

Perhaps it all began long ago when my first cavity blazed the path to my dentist's clinic. I'll never forget that man and I'm still trying to forgive him. I swear he never smiled except when he was in the process of causing me major discomfort. On my first visit (how did I ever muster up the courage!) I sat in the waiting room amidst other horrified patients—or was it only my own horror and my imagination working overtime? Finally, (I had hoped my name and me would both be forgotten and I was very gracious in offering every patient to go before me) a very grumpy and grouchy nurse appeared at the door of the waiting room and summoned me with such relish as if she were reading the names of those about to be guillotined. I thought of saying: "But I've changed my name and now use another," until I saw the mean look on her face and figured it best to just say, "Hi!"

She ushered me into the dentist's torture chamber and ordered me to sit on the chair of torment which can be made to stretch the victim's body into all sorts of contortions. I looked for mercy or compassion in her face but found none. She disappeared in an icy flurry of importance and I was left all alone with HIM. Not even a hint of a smile crossed his countenance as he waved me into silence while he readied all sorts of nauseating looking instruments of destruction as a nearby little fountain used for rinsing out bloodied mouths bubbled with the false appearance of tranquility and peace. The atmosphere was thick with the smell of antiseptics, iodine and alcohol. He then proceeded to pull out a vicious drill and tested it in the air while I sat feeling faint as I stared at it in disbelief listening to it whirrs and then: "You're not going to use that weapon on me, are you?" I gasped.

When he opened his mouth to speak, I expected to see vampire fangs hanging there ready to take a bite out of my throat, but was disappointed instead to only see a set of

regular teeth while he calmly and without any sympathy at all said: "We'll have to see what's wrong first. Open your mouth!" as he snapped the drill back in place.

"Why?" I demanded. "I like it better shut. Less germs get in you know, when the mouth is closed. One never knows what kind of unhealthy microbes could be circulating about!"

He still didn't smile but granted: "Just open your mouth, please!" and not even waiting for my unwilling response, insisted on prying it open with his finger and something that looked like a screw driver. After succeeding at his task, (I should have bit his finger) he took his treacherous tiny mirror and began inspecting my teeth with a disgusted "HMMMM!"

He then yanked at his drill again and directed it toward my propped open mouth. "Ahhh!" I screamed as best I could under the circumstances and raised my hand to grapple with this arm but he quickly slapped it down, (he didn't seem to like the idea of arm wrestling) and then put the drill back and took out a long, long needle not fit for humans (or animals either come to think of it) so he could inject novocaine into my wiled gums.

I moaned and waited for the numbing to take effect — my tongue and lip grew thicker but really there is no injection potent enough to completely dull the feel of a drill as it whines into the core of a tooth and even seems to delve into the very marrow of a person's bones. At last, after an apparent eternity, he tired of his game of torture for the day and put his wicked instruments back on their tray. As I weakly and shakily dragged myself off the rack of horrors and shuffled out of his chamber of terror past his unflinching face, he muttered when the next miserable appointment would be and told me to pay his nurse (suddenly turned secretary) who had just whisked into the room on her broom. She shrilly cackled as I limped out the door and endeavored to pull my heart back up off the floor and convince myself that incidents such as these exist either in nightmares or else a dentist's office such as his.

I have since changed dentists but not attitudes (I'm a confirmed coward) and now go to a female because I thought she would be more compassionate and gentler with what's left of my teeth. But whenever I have an appointment, I dread the whole day and when I head for her office, my heart beats rapidly, my hands get cold and clammy, my feet become petrified and I feel as though I'm heading for purgatory. After I arrive at her office, I always search for a sign of mercy in her eyes. Instead I see a malevolent gleam as she raises her chair of torment, prepares her vile little instruments while I wait in dread next to the deceitful bubbling fountain and gets ready to inflict pain and agony in a territory on which I should hang a sign reading, "no trespassing" or better yet, "no dentists allowed!"

Julie Andrews turning her

attention to Third World women

By Terril Jones
The Associated Press

NICE, France — Most people know Julie Andrews as someone who worked magic with children. Now she's trying her touch with the world's poorest women.

The star of the film classics *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound Of Music* is working with a United Nations agency devoted to improving the lives of poverty-stricken women around the globe.

Since early this year Miss Andrews has been working with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, known as UNIFEM. The agency provides money to fund flour mills, livestock breeding programmes, small-scale factories and other projects.

"They had a kind of clarity of vision I liked very much," Miss Andrews said in an interview in this southern French city.

"The statistics are extraordinary — two-thirds of all the world's women are illiterate, and one-third of all homes worldwide are maintained by women," Miss Andrews said.

Women also run nearly three-fourths of the world's small business enterprises, and grow and market more than three-fourths of the food, according to the agency.

UNIFEM draws on contributions from state and non-governmental organisations, and individual gifts. Last year donations amounted to \$13 million.

"If you help 400,000 women, you automatically help 1 million children and spouses because it automatically spills over," said Miss Andrews, who was in Nice accompanying her husband, film director Blake Edwards, at work on his latest movie.

"In developing countries women are the last slave force — they take care of the household, bear the children," she said.

It's a totally new direction for Miss Andrews, 57, who has spent more than 45 years in show business. She first appeared on the London stage when she was 12. Her mother, stepfather



British actress Julie Andrews, left, meets with U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Sharon Capoling-Alakija, director of UNIFEM, at the U.N. in New York

In March this year, Ms. Andrews was named by Dr. Ghali as goodwill ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

"and the daughter Julie" were popular on British radio and in music halls in the 1940s.

Roles in the Broadway successes *Mary Fair Lady* and *Camelot* led to Walt Disney's *Mary Poppins* in 1964, for which she won an Oscar and which remains one of cinema's family classics.

A year later came *The Sound Of Music*, an all-time box-office hit.

Her first marriage was to set designer Tony Walton, with whom she had a daughter, Emma. She married Edwards in 1969, becoming stepmother to his children from a previous marriage: Jennifer, an actress who has appeared in several of her father's films; and Geoffrey, a music director easing his way into cinema.

Miss Andrews has starred in several of Edwards' movies, including their first collaboration *Darling Lili* (1970); *The Tamarind Seed* (1974); *S.O.B.* (1981); *Victor/Victoria* (1982); *The Man who loved Women* (1983); and *That's Life* (1986).

The actress says she likes to see things for herself in connection with UNIFEM.

She has been to Senegal and recently visited a weaving centre in Jordan that was set up with UNIFEM funds. She may also travel to Zimbabwe.

In Senegal she visited nomadic tribes "with no water, appalling conditions."

"In a village, the women there banded together and felt they could build a better life, and made a request," she said. "They got a mill house. They save a third of the profits to maintain the mill and feed the horse that drives it. It's very, very primitive, but they hold meetings, and the whole community benefits."

Typically, a village makes an appeal to the government, which asks UNIFEM for help. Allocations range from \$2,000-\$400,000. So far about \$42 million has been provided for 800 projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"One thing that struck me the most is how hungry women are for advancement," Miss Andrews said. "In the U.N., government, villages — eager for advancement, eager for education." She has been active in other charities in the past,

particularly as a board member of operation California, a Los Angeles-based international aid group that helps, among others, the Vietnamese Adoption Agency that gave Miss Andrews and Mr. Edwards their two adopted Vietnamese orphans, Amy and Joanna.

Non-cinema work has brought her mixed success. A variety series in 1973 didn't work; a nightclub act in 1976 in Las Vegas did. Low ratings earlier this year on American television ended a sitcom called Julie after a handful of episodes.

She returns to show business next year, recreating her role in the film *Victor/Victoria* on the New York stage. She and Mr. Edwards made 11 club singer pretending to be a female impersonator, with Edwards directing his first stage musical.

"I'm doing it for the challenge of it. The fact that it's *Victor/Victoria* is close to our hearts," she said of the film she and Edwards made 11 years ago. "I'm extremely nervous. It's been a long time between now and then."

Art imitates life — Woody's new movie

By Larry McShane
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — You've read the tabloids — now see the movie.

Film fans and gossip mongers turned out for the opening of Woody Allen's *Husbands and Wives*, where the on-screen Woody chases a 21-year-old and splits up with Mia.

"I wonder what his psychiatrist thinks? I thought you were supposed to work through your fantasies," said Fran Turner, who showed up an hour before the first showing of the film in Allen's East Side neighbourhood. "I think he needs a new psychiatrist." Maybe not. Allen's angst is

poured out on screen in this bit of cinema sort-of verité. "Do you ever hide things from me?" Farrow's character asks Allen early on, eliciting giggles from the crowd. "Do you think we'd ever break up?" She wonders later.

As you might guess, the flick cuts a bit close to the bone.

"What's harder to understand than why Woody has made his private life so public is why it took so long for Mia to figure it out. It's all there in the script," wrote critic Jami Bernard in the New York Post.

A quick synopsis of the movie: Allen and Farrow are married. Another couple, their close friends, separate;

Woody and Mia begin to reassess their marriage. Woody almost gets involved with a 21-year-old college student. The friends get back together; Woody and Mia split.

A quick synopsis of real life: Allen and Farrow are longtime lovers. When Mia finds out Woody is sleeping with a 21-year-old college student — her adopted daughter, Soon-Yi — they split up.

The juxtaposition of the twin stories drew some folks to the Beekman Theatre in Manhattan to see if art imitates life.

"This is the first time I've done this," confessed Hope Orsini, waiting to get inside.

"I've read everything about the film — the Times, the Post, People, Newsweek — and I wanted to be the first one to see it."

The guaranteed taken-from-Woody's-life laughter: Allen and Juliette Lewis, playing the student infatuated with Woody, visit a man who has found a manuscript belonging to Allen in a cab.

The man is with his family; Allen brings Lewis into their house.

"If you don't mind my saying, you've got a beautiful daughter yourself," the man tells Allen. The crowd goes wild.

Best line in the movie: As Lewis comes on to Allen at her birthday party, he dead-

pans, "why do I hear \$50,000 worth of psychotherapy dialing 911?"

There's also a scene where Lewis' older lover takes her to a New York Knicks game — now where have you heard that before?

"It's quite a movie. You feel so much for him," was the review from Joan Liebowitz, who passed up a weekend outing to catch this showing. "It's all there."

While the whole world is looking for parallels to real life, Allen is busy denying they exist. After the credits roll, a brief disclaimer pops up on the screen:

"No similarities to persons living or dead should be inferred."



Mia Farrow and Woody Allen as a couple with marital problems in *Husbands and Wives*

Gunfire — real-life special effects for Sarajevo's war play

By John Fullerton
Reuters

SARAJEVO — On a tiny stage in a basement shelter, Sarajevo's war theatre holds a mirror up to the daily suffering of the city's residents.

Simply getting there in one piece is risky for actors and audience alike.

But a first performance of *The Shelter* showed that in

spite of the suffering and deprivation people here can still laugh at themselves.

The play drew a standing ovation and prolonged applause. Many in the audience were still wiping away tears as the lights came on.

"It was so realistic. It had everything. It has our misery and humour," said Aida, a student.

The Shelter was written by professional Bosnian playwright Safet Plakalo. It deals with the insufferable routine of war — the search for water, for food, for cigarettes.

It also looks at the way in which people cope with stress.

There is a woman who, in a bid to escape the grim reality, turns into a namedropper

constantly fantasising about famous people who take her into their confidence. The reality she is fleeing is a neighbour who has lost both his legs in the war.

There is a theatre director who debates the role of intellectuals in war time.

There is a profiteer with his pocket stuffed with riches and promising every imagin-

able luxury, who believes that with Deutschmarks anything is possible.

Intrusive government is represented by a bureaucrat, his chest covered with plastic cards of accreditation of one sort or another. He wants to register the shelter, where the protagonists are crowded, and everything in it.

Reality merged with fiction at the play's first night.

The crash of mortar bombs and rattle of machinegun fire outside the smoke-filled theatre added real-life sound effects to the script.

A latecomer, noisily pulling the velcro tabs of his cumbersome takjacket, was momentarily mistaken for a member of the cast.

No one was quite sure whether the guard in camouflage uniform and carrying a

Czechoslovak Scorpion machine pistol was part of the play or not. He looked uncertain himself.

"I think they showed us what we look like. They held up a mirror to us. It was funny and it was sad," said Dragan, a member of the audience.

The War Theatre combines Sarajevo's three professional

theatre companies into one. Admission is free — local sponsorship supports the production and the players.

What is playwright Plakalo's message?

"The fact that we have a theatre, players and audience and are able to act out what is happening to us in this war. We all fight in our own way," he says.

Flesh-eating zombies take New Zealand films down new path

By Simon Louissou
Reuters

WELLINGTON — A new blood-and-guts horror movie, *Braindead*, scorns the New Zealand tradition of art-house films by making even the Texas Chainsaw Massacre seem like a bedtime story.

"If you thought the '50s was all bobby-sox and innocence you didn't live next door to Lionel," the film's publicity material proclaims.

Set in Wellington in 1957, *Braindead* stars Tomohy Baine as 25-year-old Lionel Cosgrove, whose life goes seriously off the rails after his bossy mum Vera (Elizabeth Moody) is bitten by a rare carnivorous rat monkey at the zoo.

The bite turns Vera into an insatiable flesh-eating zombie whose hapless victims include a pet dog belonging to Lionel's girlfriend Paquita (Diana Penvaler).

"Your mother ate my dog," Paquita complains.

After an initial two minutes of deceptive tranquillity, the audience is treated to a gathering orgy of blood-just which is so over the top it is hard to imagine another splatter movie outdoing it.

But far from clutching the sides of their seats in terror, the audience at the recently screened premier were rolling in the aisles with laughter.

Director Peter Jackson insists the film is a comedy and critics agree. *Braindead* is now being sold worldwide and was a roaring success at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

"The type of film I'm making, the gore and the blood tends to overwhelm anything else, but the essence of it all is that they are basically funny."

Jackson, 30, said his guiding influence as a youngster was Britain's trail-blazing Monty Python television comedy series.

"I saw that when I was 11 or 12 and I thought it was just so funny. That's all I'm doing now," Jackson said.

"When you start to go over the top you reach a point that going beyond that it just has to be funny. It is no longer based on reality. It cannot have any bearing on real life."

"I believe that the less blood and gore there is the more horrific it actually is." Maple syrup was used as imitation blood in *Braindead* in such liberal quantities that it had to be ordered in 44-gallon (200 litre) drums.

The film was Jackson's third feature, all of the same genre.

His first, aptly named *Bad Taste*, was made in weekends while he worked as a photographer at Wellington's Evening Post newspaper.

Reputedly made for under a paltry \$150,000, *Bad Taste* nevertheless sold well and has cult followings all over the world.

The budget for *Bad Taste* was so low that Jackson had to bake latex foam heads as props in his mother's oven, but these days his films are backed by the New Zealand Film Commission.

Set up in 1978, the commission is largely funded by state lotteries and funds about five movies a year. It has around 80 feature films to its credit.

Marketing Manager Lindsay Shelton said the commission invested in *Braindead* to show there are more than just art-house movies coming out of New Zealand.

"While the Australian industry is most known for its Crocodile Dundee and Mad Maxes, the New Zealand industry is best known for the Jane Campion, Vincent Ward type of movie which is more thoughtful, more quality-based, more in-depth," he said.

Ward's *Vigil* and The Navigator won acclaim at several film festivals while Campion's *An Angel at My Table* has been one of the most commercially successful New Zealand films.

Braindead is also well on the way to commercial success.

Producer Jim Booth said it had been sold in 13 countries and he was soon to sign with distributors in Japan, the United States and Britain.

After showing the film at Cannes this year, where the audience gave it a standing ovation, Booth said he had the major U.S. studios knocking at his door, something most New Zealand film producers only dream about.

"*Braindead*, outomble- ing all previous zombie flicks, this hilariously sick, technically accomplished black comedy is gory beyond the vilest necrophiliac's dreams," Screen International wrote in a review.

Variety magazine also reviewed the film favourably. "Pic's perhaps a shade too long, but the aficionados won't mind," it said.

Braindead, like nearly all New Zealand films, was made for a quarter of American or European costs.

Dead rock stars still top of the pops at auction

By Jill Serjeant
Reuters

LONDON — Years after topping the popular music charts, international rock superstars are shaking up se-date auction rooms more accustomed to selling Botticelli than the Beatles.

Concert programmes, stage clothes, guitars and cars belonging to musicians such as Jimi Hendrix, Elvis Presley and the Rolling Stones are going under the hammer for tens of thousands of pounds in an ever-expanding market for pop and rock memorabilia.

"I can understand why some people find the whole thing rather absurd but there are a lot of people who take it very seriously," said Stephen Maycock of London auctioneers Sotheby's.

Sotheby's last month re-

corded its most successful pop memorabilia sale in 11 years.

While the fine art market, particularly the impressionists, languishes in the doldrums after the high-spending 1980s, the handwritten lyrics of Beatles songs *She's Leaving Home* and *A Day In The Life* went under the hammer for a record £41,000 (\$79,830) and £44,000 (\$85,670) apiece.

"Despite the recession and the dire overall market, it was the best sale we have ever had, making over £600,000 (\$1.1 million) — a quarter of a million (\$440,000) more than last year," Mr. Maycock said.

Dealers sporting jeans and pony-tails, or private collectors with greying hair and T-shirts carrying slogans like "the old hippie" cram into the austere salerooms of four

London auction houses for an annual summer round of high-priced nostalgia.

Rock memorabilia is not recommended as an investment for anyone other than enthusiasts.

"This field is particularly untouched by investors. It is a market for people who love the subject and want to own artefacts relating to rock-'n'-rollers that they admire," said Mr. Maycock.

"It would be nice if in 10 years' time something was worth more than you paid for it, but it might not be."

The U.S. restaurant chain Hard Rock Cafe is one of the biggest commercial buyers. Its Creative Director Warwick Stone offered the following advice:

"Buy something belonging to someone that you believe is going to last a long time,

that's the main thing. That's why Madonna goes high because Madonna is definitely here to stay. Buy what you like and who you like," said the pony-tailed Stone.

Belgian businessman Georges Uhoda did just that when he paid £9,000 (\$17,500) for Madonna's well-worn pointy gold basque. "I love Madonna," Mr. Uhoda told reporters.

Only one group is a sure money-spinner — the "fab four" who sparked a worldwide wave of beatlemania in the swinging sixties.

"The Beatles were number one then and they are number one now. Even though it is 20 years since they split up, their influence and position is unchallenged," said Mr. Maycock.

"I personally feel that John Lennon and Paul McCartney are the most important com-

posers in their century and I am sure that in 200 years time they will hold a position equivalent to the classical composers."

Memorabilia associated with dead rockstars such as Lennon, Hendrix and Buddy Holly — cut down at the peak of their careers — fetch the biggest prices in an unpredictable market where fashion changes as quickly as the hit parade.

A harlequin leotard belonging to Freddie Mercury fetched £4,800 (\$9,300), four or five times what it might have made before the Queen singer's death from AIDS last year.

Among the living, Prince and Michael Jackson line up with Madonna as the current best bets. But even a pair of brand-name sunglasses worn by British singer George Michael can fetch

£650 (\$1,250).

Yet the Beatles reign supreme, particularly among Japanese collectors.

Forgers have entered the memorabilia market. Mr. Maycock said up to 80 per cent of the Beatles signatures he had seen were not genuine.

Many date from the sixties when fans swamped the pop group and a road manager of one Beatle signed programmes and photographs for all four.

"Those were not designed to deceive. It was just a matter of keeping up with demand," said Mr. Maycock.

"But there are people producing modern fakes. They are worth a lot of money and forgers see it as worth their while to learn how to fake the Beatles' signatures. 'I have to shatter people's dreams very often.'"

Poland's art restorers are world leaders

By Michael Lindemann
The Associated Press

WARSAW — Lightly flicking the 16th-century Venetian canvas with a millimetre brush, Elzbieta Nienyska's face was twisted with concentration.

"It's incredibly delicate work," she said, looking up briefly from the painting of the Virgin and Child, probably a work by Palma Vecchio. "From experience we've developed special oils which are more resistant — at least that way the colours last longer."

Icons, Gothic statues and paintings litter the workshop. Next door, five women were bent busily sewing the tattered remains of a 17th-century Gobelins tapestry.

It was another day of art restoration at the studios of PKZ (in English, the Studios

for Conservation of Cultural Property).

Experience and knowledge gained in rebuilding a Poland ravaged by World War II have kept PKZ craftspeople in steady demand worldwide for half a century.

But like many overgrown, state-subsidised enterprises cozy in the old Socialist economy, PKZ is facing drastic changes — including cutting three-fourths of its work force.

The studios are housed in a beautiful palace in the centre of Warsaw — one of the many aristocratic leftovers that the Communists, of all people, rebuilt after the war.

Their figures are impressive: 170 castles and 32,000 monuments restored since the early 1950s.

World War II left Poland more physically devastated

than any other country. The capital, Warsaw, was 84 per cent destroyed. Gdansk was reduced to rubble by Red Army artillery. Wrocław, the proud former German city of Breslau, was a brick heap.

Faced with such a gargantuan task of reconstruction and restoration, the government created PKZ in 1951. At its peak the company employed 12,500 craftsmen, engineers and art historians. Its workshops nationwide specialised in window work, paper crafts, embroidery and stonework.

Why such a fervour to rebuild?

"It's like a student who forgoes his lunch and supper and spends his last penny to buy a rose for his darling," said Professor Tadeusz Polak, PKZ's avuncular director.

He recalled how during the 1950s, state funds were spent generously for reconstruction, and citizens were exhorted with brave Socialist slogans to join in.

"Not only did we preserve monuments, but we did the same for trades which are superfluous in modern construction," Polak said, referring to arcane crafts such as stonecutting, weaving and decorative plasterwork.

But with state support evaporating, PKZ has had to face economic reality.

More than 9,000 jobs were eliminated and the 3,000 workers remaining have invested their earnings to buy two-thirds of the company. The state still owns a third.

Andrzej Bochinski, the Warsaw office's director, said 1991 losses were huge, partly because of large severance

payments and because big contracts in the former Soviet Union have dried up.

"If it wasn't for exports, we'd have ceased to exist," said Polak, who has been with PKZ from the beginning.

PKZ's business outside Poland started in Munich in 1972 when the Socialist city government decided to award a contract to restore the old town gate, known as the Isartor, to an East-Bloc company.

Since then, competing for foreign contracts has become second nature to PKZ. Its work abroad earned almost \$12 million last year.

The company wins about 20 per cent of contracts on the lucrative German market and works in 16 countries worldwide, including Spain, Sweden and Egypt, where it is

part of the restoration of the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut near Luxor on the River Nile.

Recently Cambodia appointed Prof. Polak as an adviser on the restoration of Angkor Wat, the vast 13th-century temple complex overgrown by lush jungle and damaged in decades of civil war.

On the Polish market, however, prospects are dimmer. Contracts were certain when the state owned all of Poland's monuments and artworks. Now, pre-war owners are recovering properties but few of them can afford sophisticated restoration.

But Prof. Polak said he and his skilled workers will hang on.

"When better times return, we'll be back to save Polish monuments," he said.

Madrid bids to join art elite with two new museums

By Jude Webber
Reuters

MADRID — Keen to join the arts glitterati and forever bury its image as a cultural backwater, Madrid has chosen to open two new museums in a month, displaying some of the world's finest old and modern masters.

The new museum of contemporary art, the Reina Sofia, put on show its first permanent collection on Sept. 11 and is already drawing huge crowds.

On Oct. 10, Swiss industrialist Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza's multi-

million dollar collection goes on display in the 18th century Villahermosa Palace.

"With the collections of the Prado Museum, the Reina Sofia and the Villahermosa Palace, Madrid has turned into an essential painting capital, a clear rival for Paris with its Louvre and London with its National Gallery," Baron Thyssen said as final touches were being put to the display of his treasures.

The two new museums complete a triangle with the Prado, Spain's elegant neo-classical national gallery which boasts magnificent col-

lections of Spanish, Flemish and Italian masters including Velazquez, Goya, Bosch and Rubens.

The Thyssen collection, billed as the centrepiece of Madrid's otherwise lacklustre year as European capital of culture, will be just a few minutes' walk away across a tree-lined boulevard.

Both new galleries have courted controversy.

A full-scale row erupted when the government announced it was moving Guernica, one of Pablo Picasso's outstanding works, from an annex of the Prado to the Reina Sofia.

Some art critics accused curators of poaching the painting against the wishes of the Picasso family in order to give Kudos to the new gallery.

Then they complained the painting was hidden in a funnel-shaped recess in its new home and visitors would have to huddle together to get a decent look.

Maria De Corral, director of the Reina Sofia, dismissed the criticisms. "Guernica can be seen in optimum conditions ... with a great intimacy. The display is far better than in the Museum of Modern Art (in New York)."

The stark monochrome mural, inspired by the German bombing of the Basque town of Guernica during the Spanish Civil War, hung in New York for 42 years.

Picasso stipulated that civil liberties should be restored before the painting could be shown in Spain. It was returned in 1981, six years after the death of Dictator Francisco Franco.

The Prado is severely cluttered. It owns 19,056 works, but only has room to display 1,781. The rest are in storage or decorating public buildings and embassies.

The government is con-

sidering letting the Prado move down the road into the Agriculture Ministry building, while the museum is examining a proposal to open a regional branch in a 14th-century monastery near Barcelona.

Baron Thyssen is bringing 800 paintings to Madrid, around half of a collection rated as second only to that of Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

and worth well over a billion dollars. The Thyssen collection includes works by Titian, Tintoretto, Rubens, El Greco, Goya, Van Gogh, Monet, Cezanne, Degas, Kandinsky, Braque and Picasso.

Some transplant patients survive without drugs

By Claudia Coates
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — After her liver transplant, Betty Baird expected to take anti-rejection drugs the rest of her life. Three years later, frightened by steroid-induced mood swings, she flushed her pills down the toilet.

To doctors' surprise, her body didn't reject the liver. Ms. Baird, 34, is one of a few organ recipients who have tossed out their anti-rejection drugs without suffering, said Dr. Thomas Starzl, director of the Transplantation Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

She has survived 10 years without the medicine, and Dr. Starzl believes he knows why: Cells from the transplanted organ wander to new homes in the recipient's body

and promote harmony.

The discovery could lead to reduced use of anti-rejection drugs, which have a long list of side effects.

"It redefines transplant immunology," Dr. Starzl said. The struggle begins soon after a transplanted organ is sewn in. The body recognizes the presence of an intruder and starts to fight it. The soldier cells of the immune system clash with the soldier cells of the strange organ.

To quiet the battle, the transplant recipient takes anti-rejection drugs.

Researchers have evidence that in the cases of Ms. Baird and others, the two cell armies "get religion" and become missionary cells. The cells from the recipient travel into the new organ, and the cells from the organ move throughout the body.

The trade helps the body accept the organ.

Starzl's findings, published in the British journal, *Lancet*, contradict what was believed about the soldier cells, which threaten the success of a transplant in the early stages. Many a surgeon tries to chemically kill or suppress these bad-guy cells in an organ before transplanting it.

It's easy to see why transplant patients would hate taking anti-rejection drugs. Steroids, Cyclosporine and FK506 can have disgusting side effects from a ballooning of the face to acne, thickened gums, arrested growth and extra facial hair.

Other possibilities are worse — blindness, weakened bones — or even life-threatening — high blood pressure and susceptibility to infection. Cancer is seen in

transplant patients so often that a form of it has been named for them: post-transplantation lymphoproliferative disease.

Ironically, Dr. Starzl, 66, has spent decades looking for better and better anti-rejection drugs. Known as the father of liver transplants, he established the use of the drugs ALG, Cyclosporine and the more effective but experimental FK506.

Pitt researchers are choosing transplant patients with a good chance of being weaned off anti-rejection drugs for an experiment, said Howard Doyle, assistant professor of surgery. Patients invited to join the experiment will be those whose bodies have traded cells with their transplanted organs.

"We think it's ok to do it under controlled conditions

and slowly take them off the medicines and watch them carefully," Dr. Doyle said.

Seven people who received liver transplants at Pitt have tossed their anti-rejection medicine after years of taking it and have no ill effects, Dr. Starzl said. Among kidney recipients, one former Pitt patient has shrugged off medication for 27 years and is living normally.

Most transplant centres have a few recipients who defy doctors and survive without anti-rejection drugs.

Dr. William Morris, director of the Laboratory of Transplant Immunology at Stanford University, has heard of two heart-transplant recipients who threw away their anti-rejection medicine. He warned other patients: Don't try this at home.

"Most of the people who

stop their drugs do reject, and it's usually catastrophic," Dr. Morris said. Even patients who take their medicine for years can suffer rejection episodes.

For Ms. Baird, ending her periodic depression was worth the risk.

She reached her crisis in 1982, about three years after her transplant was made necessary, by Wilson's disease, which results from an excess of copper.

The steroids she was taking to prevent transplant rejection had boosted her weight to 200 pounds (90 kilograms) and had stolen her emotional stability.

In cases like Ms. Baird's, the missionary cells have travelled through the blood to nestle into the skin, lymph nodes, heart and bone marrow of long-time transplant patients, Dr. Starzl said.

The soldier cells are dendritic cells, which exist

throughout the body and alert the immune system to invaders. How they turn into missionaries or protect transplanted organs isn't known for sure.

Researchers found the cells in the tissues of up to 100 long-term recipients of successfully transplanted livers or kidneys. The exact figure wasn't available because tests were continuing.

"If we can consistently re-create or create this situation... then yes, it will be a major breakthrough in transplantation," said W. Henry Barber, a University of Alabama associate professor of surgery.

Dr. Barber's research has shown that a bone-marrow transfusion from the kidney donor before a transplant improves the chances of organ acceptance.

Dr. Barber's research has shown that a bone-marrow transfusion from the kidney donor before a transplant improves the chances of organ acceptance.

The soldier cells are dendritic cells, which exist

Cancer — on the trail of the deadly vagabonds

By Barbara Ritzert

DURING cancer operations, a moment comes when the theatre becomes distinctly quieter. This is the when the pathologist announces the result of the lymph node analysis. The surgeons then have to decide whether it is necessary to remove the lymph nodes as well as the tumour.

For patient and their recovery this is important, since it reveals whether individual cancer cells have already moved out of the tumour. If the vagabond cancer cells invade other organs through the lymph and blood vessel system, metastases (secondary growths) may be formed.

As a rule, the latter are much more difficult to treat than the primary tumour. Most patients do not die from the original growth, but from the metastases.

This is why scientists throughout the world are trying to discover the molecular processes which turn locally growing and relatively "peaceful" cancer cells into

deadly vagabonds. New findings in this field are immediately made known throughout the world, even though the good news is not initially accompanied by tangible progress in treatment.

A discovery in this research category by work groups led by Margot Zöller at the German Cancer Research Centre in Heidelberg and Peter Herrlich at the Cancer Research Centre in Karlsruhe has hit the headlines. The two teams have discovered a gene which — at least in the case of certain tumours in rats — fulfils a remarkably important control-switch function.

After the scientists inserted this gene into tumour cells which had only grown locally up until then, the gene-doped cells began to rapidly metastasise. "We didn't expect this at all," says Helmut Ponta from the Karlsruhe team. He said it was too early to infer from the findings so far that the main genetic control-switch of metastasis

had been found, even though "this would be marvellous."

Margot Zöller was also restrained in her expectations: "Nature always has various possibilities. In some cases, switching on this gene may suffice to form metastases. Yet other processes can undoubtedly lead to the same result." Indeed, during recent years other researcher groups have discovered several genes and molecules which play different parts in the various stages of metastasis formation.

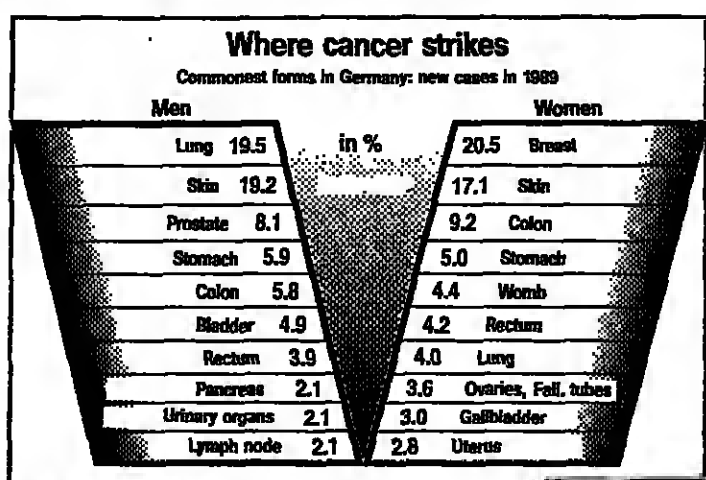
It has been known for some time that the relocation of subsidiary growth is a multi-stage process, which does not constitute a chance concomitant phenomenon of tumour growth, for example, pressure increasing inside the growth and squeezing the cells into the bloodstream.

The itinerant cancer cells not only have to detach themselves from the original cell structure and overcome several barriers, such as the blood vessel walls and the surrounding tissue. They

then have to flee the body's immuno-system, since white blood cells (lymphocytes) are waiting to attack any alien substances.

The vagabond cells put on a "camouflage" against such attacks. Finally, they penetrate alien tissue, displace healthy cells and set up their own blood supply system. In the 1970s, Anneliese Schleich, at the time the only female head of department at the German Cancer Research Centre, recorded dramatic pictures she herself made on a cine-camera film. The pictures showed how tumour cells attack healthy tissue, lodge inside of it and then grow over it.

Up until about a decade ago, such research work provided important information on the biological process of metastasis. It was still not clear, however, what exactly had to change inside the cells to make them detach themselves and begin their risky journey through the body — most of the cells are destroyed along the way.



Source: Saar cancer register

Researchers have only recently been able, with the help of above all genetic engineering means, to cast some light on this process. It became increasingly clear that a biological equilibrium is disrupted between players and counterplayers when metastases are formed, as in the case of cancer formation itself.

When primary tumours are formed, genes which stimulate growth (oncogenes) gain the upper hand over genes which restrain growth (anti-oncogenes). Apparently, in the case of metastases there are a host of factors which can gradually stimulate or restrain growth.

American scientists, for example, discovered that vagabond tumour cells produce certain enzymes in order to perforate the walls of blood vessels and other barriers. In healthy cell tissue, however, there are counterplayers which can block such enzymes.

Walter Birchmeier and his team from the Institute of Cell Biology at the University of Essen has proven that certain bodily substances foster the mobility of metastasising cells. What is more, the researchers in Essen found out that these vagabonds also lack a certain surface molecule (E-Cadherin).

This molecule would normally appear to ensure that cells can "identify" and "control" one another. If the molecule is lost, the cells experience a kind of degeneration from the specialised part of an organ to a primitive one. They can again drift into other tissue, very much like the embryonic cells which have to search on long journeys for their proper place in the body.

All genes and surface molecules discovered so far, however, are only links in a long chain. It was never possible to transform locally growing tumour cells into metastasising cells through the insertion of just one of these elements or to completely immobilise them through inhibitory factors.

The gene presented by the Heidelberg and Karlsruhe teams is the first time that one gene has been able to set this fatal process in motion — at least in the case of the tumours examined so far. Whereas some institutions which decide on the appropriation of research funds in Germany are finding it difficult to acknowledge the significance of the project, experts from the renowned U.S. science magazine, *Science*, immediately gave the

go-ahead for a detailed report in the last July issue — a rare success for a German research team.

The gene examined by the German scientists is not only important when it comes to metastasising cancer cells, but also for many healthy cells which move through the body. It contains the blueprint for a group of surface molecules called CD 44-v, which are located on the vagabond cells: "When the gastro-intestinal tract develops during the embryonic phase," Margot Zöller explains, "all cells have these molecules on their surface."

The skill cells of the epidermis, which constantly multiply, also have to move, to the surface of the skin and then cornify. They also bear a variant of the CD 44-v for their journey through the layers of skin. Its production at the surface stops, however, as soon as the cells have reached their destination.

Above all, the molecules are also important in the immuno-system as surface characteristics, various types of immuno-cells have these molecules. Zöller and Herrlich assume that the cancer cells with the CD 44-v identification tag copy the behaviour of the immuno-cells and thus manage to gain access via the lymphatic system, the real "home" of the defensive cells, to other areas of the organism.

These astonishing new insights in the deceptive manoeuvres of the cancer cells, however, do not mean there will soon be new therapies against metastases. Scientists still have to carry out numerous experiments. In experiments on rats, however, they have been able to mask and thus block the surface molecule with suitable antibodies, preventing the formation of subsidiary growth. The antibodies would appear to prevent the tumour cells from lodging in the lymph nodes and then moving into other organs.

Whether the antibodies, whose effects have only been tested so far on the pancreas tumour of rats, can also block those tumour cells which have already passed through the lymphatic system is doubtful. Apart from on further animal tumours, tests would have to be conducted on other human cell systems before a drug could be developed. Experience has shown that each type of tumour has its critical molecules and thus requires its own form of therapy. So no one should hope for a miracle cure for cancer — *Die Zeit*.

'Half of U.S. high school students drink'

By Joan Sanchez
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Alcohol and Marijuana use among U.S. teenagers are far above the levels set in national health goals for the year 2000. It's unknown yet whether teens are cutting down on drinking and smoking, researchers say.

Surveys last year of U.S. high school students showed that almost half drink alcohol, one-fourth smoke and one-tenth use marijuana, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported.

The health agency plans to use the findings to track progress toward national goals of reducing the number of teenagers who endanger their health with cigarettes, alcohol and drugs.

Dr. Laura Kann of the CDC's division of adolescent and school health said health officials won't be able to assess the nation's progress toward health goals set in 1990 for a couple of years.

"We're really at the beginning," she said. The CDC reported findings from a 1991 national survey of 12,272 high school students plus 1991 surveys conducted by 33 states and cities. An average of 2,000 students were surveyed in

each of the 33 sites, she said. The survey did not give a margin of error.

The surveys showed 46 per cent of students said they had drunk alcohol at least once in the previous 30 days. Twenty-four per cent said they had smoked at least once in the previous 30 days and 11 per cent said they had used marijuana at least once in the previous month.

"We've got a lot of kids reporting tobacco, alcohol and other drug use," Ms. Kann said. "We need to give kids the skills to avoid all these types of drugs."

By the year 2000, national education goals call for only 15 per cent of teenagers to be smoking daily when they reach age 20, 12 per cent of kids ages 12-17 to be drinking and 3 per cent of the age group to be using marijuana.

The state surveys showed that alcohol use in 32 of 33 sites was at least two times higher than the national goal. Marijuana use was at least three times higher in 30 of the 33 sites.

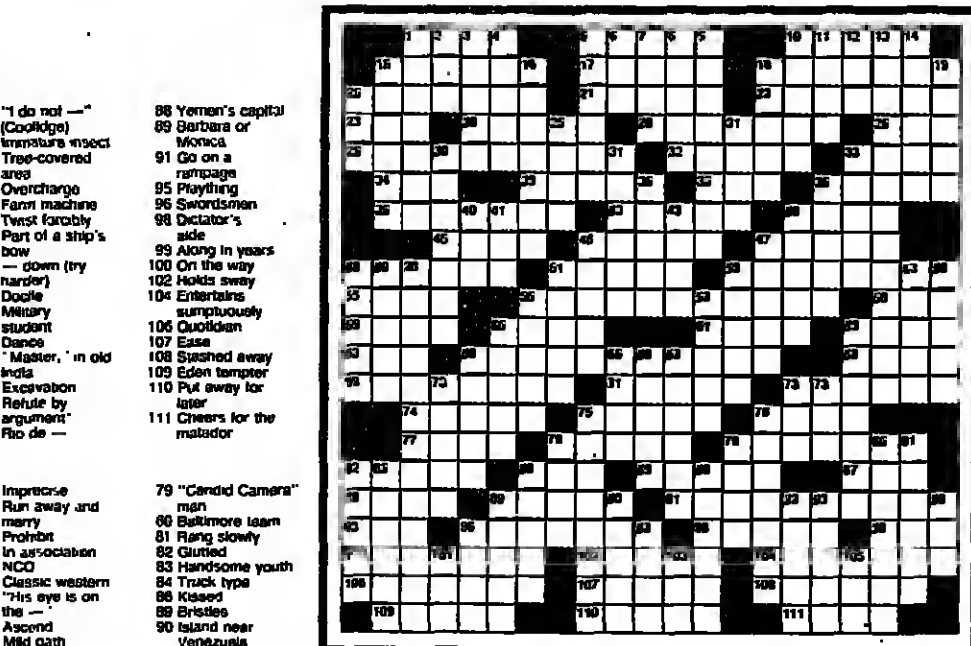
The CDC did not report a comparison on cigarette smoking because the 1991 surveys did not collect data on the number of students who smoke daily, Ms. Kann said.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

RUN-IN
By Harvey Chew

ACROSS
1 Ninny
3 Flower essence
10 Helms
15 Helms
17 Coast
18 Spanish thrush
20 Dictionary name
21 "Love Story"
22 Aardvark
23 Conjunction
24 Climb
25 Shetland
26 "Do not"
27 "I am over"
28 "I am over"
29 "I am over"
30 "I am over"
31 "I am over"
32 "I am over"
33 "I am over"

DOWN
1 Mexican shrub
2 Scotch
3 "I am over"
4 Discoloration
5 Resources
6 Article
7 Fowl
8 Spanish horses
9 Reviewer's
10 "I am over"
11 "I am over"
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Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Stalled freight train delays many weary commuters for hours at downtown crossing.
2. Very angry lady scolded; then, after surveying facts of situation coolly, acquiesced.
3. Stealth found solution to sinister mystery hidden in moldy photo of prime minister.
4. Mighty judge rejected exhibit from book in jail library — taken out of context.

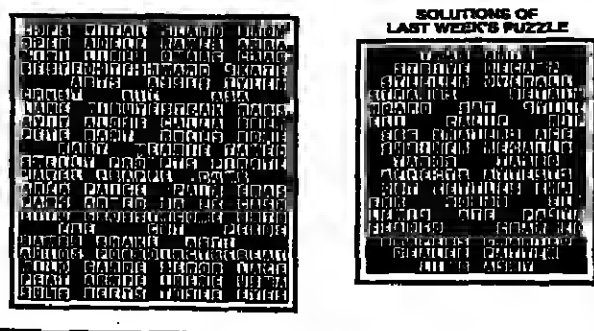
CRYPTOCRAMS

1. BPG-CJXUCY RCJAQUISH RCVEBPCCE
SPORYS SPGY QPYE JXYI UG
TXIYCVSTH HAVOL — By Lolo H. Jones

2. MONPVNFEWC XRBE ENAFON.
NOIVCWKEOB SL GKQ PNEQL SORZ, DRQ
EWVDV ZV QKQ ICKNVMBRQZ XAQQ SL
GKQ POOZ. — By Gordon Miller

3. IS US GAUSBG GENRAX DREARY CLEAN
CEAT E OAL BA IZL XRENN. — By Barbara J. Rugg

4. NHRAD UNQY EROLZAJMEE, HOMERONAP.
TNQZAA CNERAO DOLAE "GME LU QJE" EJ
GNP: NQT UNQ DNQ ENQ. — By Eugene T. Malenka



Diagramless

21 x 21, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 Not talking
4 Island near Java
5 Damages
6 Inexplicably
9 Short sleep
10 Met at all
11 Threw at a
12 Native of
13 Native of
14 Native of
15 Native of
16 Native of
17 Native of
18 Native of
19 Native of
20 Native of
21 Native of

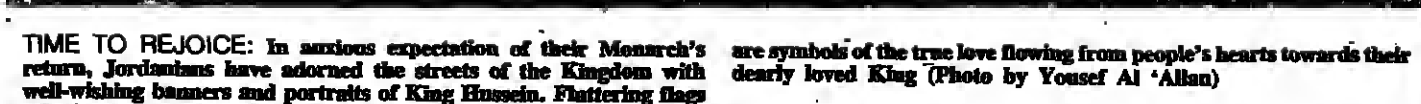
DOWN
1 Potato state
2 Arm bone
3 Lost
4 Isolated hill
5 Favors
6 Went very slowly
7 Ballroom dance
8 Eye, poetically
9 Animal cry
10 Impassive
11 Consumed

15 Play by Shakespeare
17 Increase
18 "I am over"
19 Graciously
20 "I am over"
21 "I am over"

30 Cornelia
31 Skunk
32 "I am over"
33 "I am over"

49 Reduce to powder
50 Trap
51 "I am over"
52 Wet through and through
53 Get up
54 Force transmitted by collision
55 "I am over"
56 "I am over"
57 "I am over"
58 "I am over"





By Simon Alterman
Reporter

BRUSSELS — A bitter struggle over the future of the European Community is under way, with proponents of every big idea fierce as the *huitles* between federalists and sceptics during negotiations on the Maastricht treaty itself.

EC leaders all agree that lessons must be learned from the unexpected strength of the anti-Maastricht campaign which came within a whisker of victory in Sunday's French referendum.

But some think the march to union must go faster, while others want a pause. These diametrically opposed conclusions reflect age-old differences over the EC's long-term goal.

As ever, Britain is in the thick of the conflict. But its traditional role as champion of the nation-state against the forces of central power in the community sits uncomfortably with its current position as holder of the EC presidency.

British Prime Minister John Major wants a pause for reflection after the French referendum, and has called a special EC summit for next month.

But diplomats say he could face enormous pressure at the meeting for Britain to take the lead and press on with ratifying the Maastricht treaty over the objections of many of his own members of parliament.

"One will have to ask John Major how seriously he takes the British (EC) presidency," said Ursula Seiler-Albrin, state minister in the German foreign ministry.

The problem facing the community is that the treaty agreed in the Dutch town of Maastricht last December was, as always, an elaborate compromise between the EC's 12 members.

For some — particularly found-

ex members France, Germany, the Benelux Countries and Italy. The plans for political and monetary union were a further step along the road to European integration mapped out by the community's founding fathers 40 years ago. That road leads to strong central EC institutions.

For others — notably Britain and, to some extent, Denmark — the treaty marked a radical departure from the EC's previous course by enshrining inter-governmental cooperation as the method for taking decisions on foreign policy and judicial matters and allowing "opt-outs" in some areas.

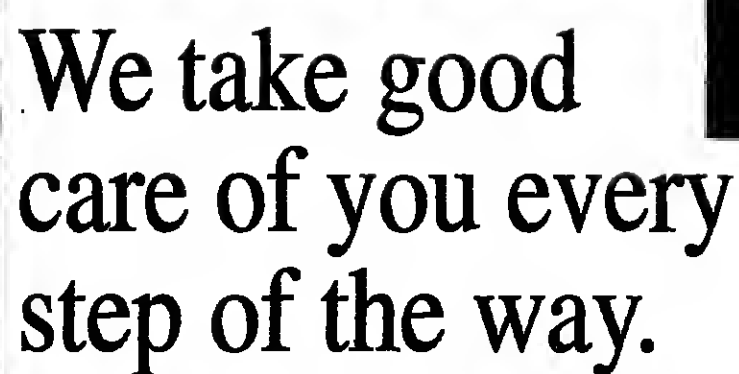
Rejection of the treaty by Dames in a referendum in June blew the argument wide open again. The passionate campaign in France over the last month reopened old wounds and inflicted several new ones, most notably when the markets forced Britain and Italy out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) last week.

On Monday, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Britain was winning the argument because its anxieties over the threat to national identities and the intrusive powers of the EC commission were now being expressed across Europe...

"The reason why John Major has called a summit is not just to discuss the currencies but to discuss these anxieties more widely," he added.

That is not how enthusiasts for EC integration see things.

"I think we have to consider how to accelerate economic and monetary union. Since faced with world monetary disorder we need greater cooperation as quickly as possible and, I hope, a single currency," said European Commission President Jacques Delors.



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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Agassi will play Australian Open

MELBOURNE (R) — Wimbledon tennis champion Andre Agassi will play his first Australian Open in January, the event's general manager Jim Reid said Wednesday. Reid said in a statement that although local governing body tennis Australia had always been confident Agassi would play, it had not received official notification until Tuesday. "We are delighted to have Agassi," he said. "He will add even more colour and excitement. He is such an inspirational player." Reid said the American would be a favourite for the Open, one of the four Grand Slam tennis events, which will be played at Melbourne's National Tennis Centre from January 18 to 31. "Everything is on target for January. It's looking like it could be the best yet," Reid said. Organisers have said the event will carry record prize money of Australian \$7 million (U.S. \$5 million) in 1993, up \$580,000 on 1992. The breakdown of the prize pool has not been finalised. Defending champions Jim Courier of the United States and Monica Seles of Yugoslavia, Germany's Boris Becker, Sweden's Stefan Edberg and Wimbledon champion Steffi Graf of Germany have agreed to play.

U.S. All-Star to play in Japan

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens, Ozzie Smith and Cecil Fielder will lead a team of Major League All-Stars who will play a Japanese All-Star team in eight games from Oct. 30 to Nov. 8. The series, to be played in Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka, will mark the fourth time in six years a Major League All-Star team has travelled to Japan. The Major League All-Stars went 3-4-1 in 1990. Fielder, who spent a year playing for Japan's Hanshin Tigers, may face some of his former teammates upon his return. The team will be managed by Tom Kelly of the Minnesota Twins, and Rod Carew will serve as hitting coach. Each player will receive \$65,000 plus an additional \$8,000 in expense money.

Sabatini and Maleeva reach quarterfinals

TOKYO (R) — Second-seeded Gabriela Sabatini and fourth seed Katerina Maleeva scored straight-set wins on Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$350,000 Tokyo Women's Tennis Tournament. World number three Sabatini needed 96 minutes to dispatch hard-hitting Japanese Rika Hiraki 6-3 6-3 in the second round and said afterwards it had been a difficult match. "I think today was a very tough match. The score didn't say much. The match was a lot tougher than that," said the 22-year-old Argentine. Bulgaria's Maleeva had an easier time, beating Ann Grossman of the United States 6-3 6-1. But South African Amanda Coetzer, seeded fifth, struggled to win her first-round match, needing 121 minutes to dispose of Japanese lucky loser Hiromi Nagano, ranked 194th in the world, 6-4 4-6 6-2. Japanese qualifier Kyoko Nagatsuka, ranked 170th, posted one of her biggest career wins when she upset 56th-ranked Monica Javer of Britain 6-3 6-3 in the first round. World No. 1 and defending champion Monica Seles of Yugoslavia will take on Taiwan's Wang Shi-Ting in her second-round match Thursday.

Basketball star breaks leg

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuanian basketball star Sarunas Marciulionis, who plays for California's Golden State Warriors in the NBA, has broken a leg after falling down a staircase. He will be out of action for two months. The ITAR-TASS news agency, quoting the Sport-Express newspaper, said Tuesday he planned to return to the U.S. immediately for medical treatment. Last year, on another trip home, Marciulionis injured his leg against a lump of concrete on a lake shore. The Lithuanian was one of the stars of the national team which took bronze at the Barcelona Olympics. He was also among the four Lithuanians who won gold with the Soviet team in 1988.

Knicks, Magic, Clippers in three-way deal

NEW YORK (R) — The New York Knicks, Orlando Magic and Los Angeles Clippers completed a long-awaited trade Tuesday that sent 7-foot (2.13 m) Stanley Roberts to Los Angeles and brought New York a trio of players. Orlando came away with a pair of first-round draft choices in the deal that was held up when Magic centre Roberts balked at the prospect of playing in Los Angeles. The Knicks received power forward Charles Smith, veteran guard Doc Rivers and swingman Bo Kimble from Los Angeles and Orlando received New York's first-round draft choice in 1993 and a conditional first-round pick from the Clippers in either 1993 or 1994.

Woman swims across Channel for 20th time

DOVER, England (AP) — A 28-year-old woman weathered a thunderstorm Tuesday to swim across the English Channel for a 20th time and set a record. Alison Streeter has paddled across the Channel more times than any other woman, taking the record from Canadian Cindy Nicholas who made her 19th crossing 10 years ago, according to Press Association, the national news agency. Streeter finished her 10 1/2-hour, 22-mile (35 km) swim from France's Cap Gris Nez to Shakespeare Beach, near Dover, in a thunderstorm.

World Cup USA organisers are planning ahead for security

NEW YORK (AP) — World Cup organisers, who don't want potential fans to have thoughts of soccer hooligans running through the streets of U.S. cities, are planning to prevent potential thugs from entering the country. Officials said they will attempt to prevent fans with a history of violence from coming to the 1994 tournament. They also said they were considering the possibility of segregating fans by nationality inside the nine stadiums to be used for the 52-game tournament, but ruled out the possibility of a large military force to provide security. Instead, they will have SWAT teams available in reserve.

"This is America. This is not a police state and we're not going to turn it into one," said Alan Rothberg, chairman of World Cup USA 1994, the group that will stage the tournament. Rothberg said security was

his largest budget item. Although soccer has a history of fan violence at big games, World Cups have been relatively trouble-free because of intense preparation. Rothberg hired Edgar N. Best as senior vice president for security. Best was director of security for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, overseeing an \$80 million budget.

"I'm not guaranteeing that we won't have an incident," Best said. "It would be foolish to do that. We will not be able to anticipate everything. This is a strange world." At the 1990 World Cup in Italy, up to 4,000 police and military personnel, many of them carrying machine guns, were used at games. There were three minor incidents, all outside stadiums, but tear gas was used.

Fans from England, Germany and the Netherlands have caused problems at European matches,

trashing town centres, ferries and railroad cars during drunken rampages. European police have identified many of the trouble-makers and prevented most of them from going to the 1990 tournament.

Best said he anticipated hooligans would attempt to come to the U.S. tournament, scheduled for June 17-July 17, 1994. He consulted with European police when he attended the 1990 World Cup.

"They said, 'they'll come by charter aircraft. Don't think that you won't have that problem,'" he quoted them as saying.

Scott Letellier, chief operating officer of the organising committee, said fans from different nations would be separated inside stadiums by the control of ticket sales. It has not been decided whether to use fencing to separate fans from the field and from each other, a security device tra-

ditionally used in Europe and South America.

However, officials have ruled out a large military presence, the method used by the Italians.

"You will not see significant amounts of military on the streets of the United States," Best said. Rothberg said the problem of fan violence at soccer games is often exaggerated. He cited incidents after the Chicago Bulls won their second straight NBA title last spring and compared them to the concern over minor trouble at June's European Championship in Sweden.

"Nobody will ever say the NBA has a problem with thugs and hooligans," Rothberg said.

Officials said they had not decided whether to follow the Italian example of banning alcohol inside stadiums. Italian authorities also banned alcohol sales in cities before potentially trouble-

Maradona to grace soccer's stage again

LONDON (R) — Diego Maradona, the fallen Argentine soccer idol who evoked awe in all who saw him play but whose sublime talents appeared prematurely lost to the game faster, is returning to grace the stage again.

Highly-strung and with an ego to match his rise from a Buenos Aires barrio to worshipped superstar, Maradona's glittering career looked to have ended abruptly in a drug-and-vice scandal 18 months ago.

But after months of publicised agonising inner conflict which ranged from threatening never to play the game again to begging to be allowed back after his 15-month international ban for cocaine abuse, Maradona, 31, is set for an emotional comeback in Seville.

On Tuesday, the Argentine who helped his country win the World Cup in 1986 and Napoli to their first Italian League titles in 1987 and 1990, was cleared to Seville and return to Spain, where he first began his European career with Barcelona 10 years ago.

Napoli, who had been demanding Maradona return to them, finally agreed to sell him to Seville for \$7.5 million after accepting he would never play for them again.

But at a time of great insecurity in his life, Maradona has chosen to join lightweight Spanish club Sevilla so he can link up with his old Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo.

do, someone he undoubtedly trusts can help assimilate him back into soccer.

Born Diego Armando Maradona Oct. 30, 1960, in the Buenos Aires working class slum of Villa Fiorito, he was the fifth of eight children of a factory worker.

His gifted talent lifted him out of poverty and into a world of unimagined wealth and stardom that was to lead him ultimately to his downfall.

"I'm privileged, but only because God wants it that way. That's why I always cross myself when I go on to the pitch. I feel I'd be betraying him if I didn't," Maradona once said.

God, according to Maradona, favoured him in the 1986 World Cup when he scored the first of his two goals in a quarter-final defeat of England by using his hand to help the ball into the net. That goal was scored "partly by the hand of God and partly by the head of Maradona," he said in his most famous quote.

Maradona, complaining about the stress of the Italian League, missed training and matches throughout the 1990-91 season and ran up more than \$50,000 in fines for indiscipline.

Maradona, who also led Napoli to a UEFA Cup triumph in 1989, became involved in a paternity suit and Napoli even threatened to sue him for damages to the club's image.

Shortly after his return to

Argentina in April 1991, Maradona was arrested for taking cocaine and ordered by a judge to quit the habit under medical supervision.

He is still undergoing court-supervised drug rehabilitation, but in July an Argentine judge gave him permission to leave the country.

His humiliating downfall and the threat of legal action meant Napoli was no longer the right place when his ban ran its course, and Maradona made it evident with a string of unreasonable demands that he would never return.

He told Napoli, where he was under contract until June 30, 1993, he wanted the right to go to Argentina periodically, to continue his therapy, and a payment of 10 billion lire (\$3 million) for the coming season. He also wanted the club to write off a seven billion lire (\$6.3 million) advance they paid him.

He is also believed to have requested a villa on the island of Capri with round-the-clock protection, the right to train alone and to choose which games he plays.

After adamantly refusing to let Maradona go, Napoli were put under pressure from the International Football Federation, whose president Joao Havelange and Argentine executive committee member Julio Grondona were anxious to see him back playing. They eventually relented.



Diego Maradona

Edberg, Courier and Sampras to play in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Stefan Edberg, Jim Courier, Pete Sampras and four others in the top 10 rankings have been confirmed for next month's Stockholm Open tennis tournament.

The only top players missing in the \$1.3 million tournament are Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi, Michael Chang and Ivan Lendl.

"But there is a chance that Agassi and Lendl will accept a wild-card," tournament director Johan Flink told a news confer-

ence Tuesday. Bjorn Borg, who has not played competitively in his native Sweden in almost 10 years, also has been offered one of the four "wild card" entry slots.

Borg, 36, winner of five straight Wimbledon titles and six French Open crowns, will make a decision after playing ATP indoor tournaments at Basle, Switzerland, and Toulouse, France, in the next two weeks.

"He's playing much better indoors than on clay," said Percy

Rosberg, Borg's former coach. "He has improved a lot compared to last spring, especially his serve and backhand. And he's moving better now."

Three-time defending champion Boris Becker, who has slipped to eighth in the world after a disappointing year, also will be back for the Oct. 26-Nov. 1 tournament.

Becker beat Edberg in five sets to win last year's final at the Globe Arena. Edberg, who will lead Sweden in the Davis Cup

semifinals against the United States in Minneapolis this weekend, regained his No. 1 ranking by beating Sampras for his second straight U.S. Open title earlier this month.

Other leading players set to play include Goran Ivanisevic, Petr Korda, Wayne Ferreira, Guy Forget, Carlos Costa, Mali-wei Washington, Michael Stich, Brad Gilbert and Andrei Medvedev, a promising Russian who captured his third ATP title of the year last weekend in France.

Chesterfield ties 4-4 with Liverpool

LONDON (AP) — Chesterfield threatened one of the biggest upsets in English soccer history Tuesday, racing into a 3-0 lead at Liverpool before the powerful mercenaries back to tie 4-4 in the League Cup.

In another surprise, First Division Millwall gained a 1-1 tie at mighty Arsenal.

Chesterfield, from the lowest of the four divisions in England, silenced the usually noisy Liverpool fans by going three goals ahead through Steve Norris, seven minutes, and Dave Lances, 30 and 48 in the second round, first leg game.

Striker Ronnie Rosenthal made it 3-1 in the 51st and Don Hutchinson scored another for Liverpool seven minutes later.

But Norris scored his second before Mark Walters, 72 minutes, and Mark Wright, 85, tied it up for Liverpool to avoid an embar-

assing home defeat. At Highbury, substitute Kevin Campbell rescued Arsenal with an equaliser 12 minutes from time after Millwall had gone ahead through Andy Roberts in the 52nd minute.

Millwall goalie Kasey Keller, from Washington, D.C., saved from Alan Smith and Paul Merson before he was beaten by Campbell.

Premier League leader Norwich was held 2-2 at another third division team, Carlisle, but league champion Leeds whipped Scunthorpe 4-1.

In Scotland, Rangers moved into its 10 League Cup final in 12 years by beating St Johnstone 3-1 at neutral Hampden Park, Glasgow.

Rangers' Ally McCoist scored twice against his former club and Rangers plays either Celtic or Aberdeen in the final Oct. 25.

Toulouse coach quits

TOULOUSE (R) — Players from struggling First Division club Toulouse have made French soccer history by forcing their coach Viktor Zvunka to resign after a string of poor results this season.

"There was a poll and 15 out of 16 players voted to demand Zvunka's departure," players' representative Christophe Galtier said.

Toulouse, bottom of the table after five defeats and two draws, are at home to leaders Paris St Germain Friday.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 9-17



"I'm writing a movie that women will love: Honey, I Shrank My Thighs!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SIZE

BICAN

MYDIAS

GINKAB

WHEN WORDS ARE SUPERFLUOUS, THIS WILL USUALLY TAKE THE PLACE OF SPEECH.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JEWEL NIECE ORPHAN VIABLE

Answer: A guy who is always late for work is either an executive, or this—NEVER WILL BE ONE

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TANNAN HIRSCH
PLAY: Tribune Media Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4Q63 Void A9G42 4AQ653 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one heart. What action do you take?

A.—Your hand is unsuitable in many respects for an unusual no trump and the minors are too weak for an overcall at the two-level. However, your hand is too good to pass. Because your spade holding is favorable, we would elect to double in the least of evils.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

5K1063 Q6 8 4A108752 The bidding has proceeded: East South West North 1 Pass Pass Dbl

Pass ? What action do you take?

A.—Must treat a double of four hearts as essentially for takeout, and the one suit that the doubler guarantees is spades. If those are your methods, then your response is clear cut—bid four spades, not five clubs. Partner doesn't promise club support.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

4AQJ108 75 QJ1076 4Q The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 4 4 5 5 4 Dbl Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—From the auction you know that partner can't have length in clubs or in spades—he would have supported you with the latter. Therefore, partner must have at least five diamonds, perhaps more, to defend with your hand is crav. Bid five diamonds.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

4K8 QJ9 QJ83 4KQ76 The bidding has proceeded: South West North East 1 Pass 1 Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—We are avid proponents of raising partner's major-suit response with three-card support, but only when no better bid is available. Here, a rebid of one no trump accurately describes your balanced minimum opening bid, so why not make it?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4KQ98 4K QJ107 4785 Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one club. What action do you take?

A.—There are several courses of action, including a one-diamond or one-spade overall, one no trump and a takeout double. All these actions are flawed, so we opt for the double as the least of evils. We will raise if partner responds in spades or diamonds, but pass if North bids one heart.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

4A1063 1085 4 4A9842 The bidding has proceeded: North East South West 1 4 2 2 ?

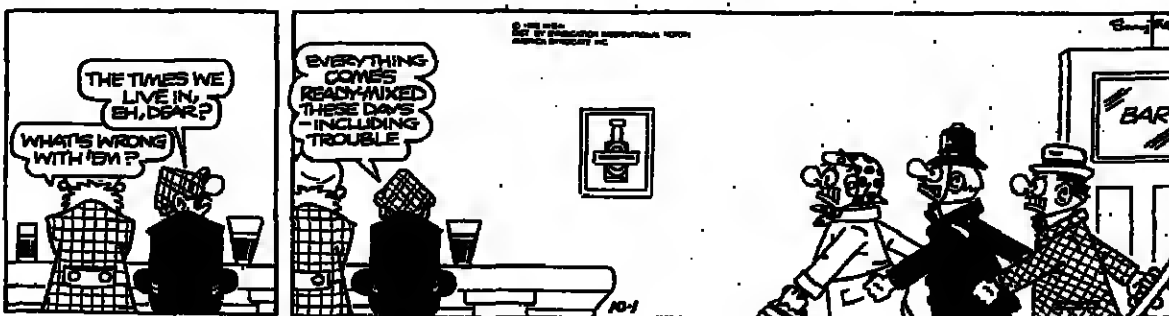
What do you bid now?

A.—This is the famous Bennett Murder Hand, and Mrs. Bennett hid four spades, which is perfectly acceptable. However, if partner does not make the game, as was the case with Mr. Bennett, please don't resort to violence. History might not repeat itself with a second acquittal.

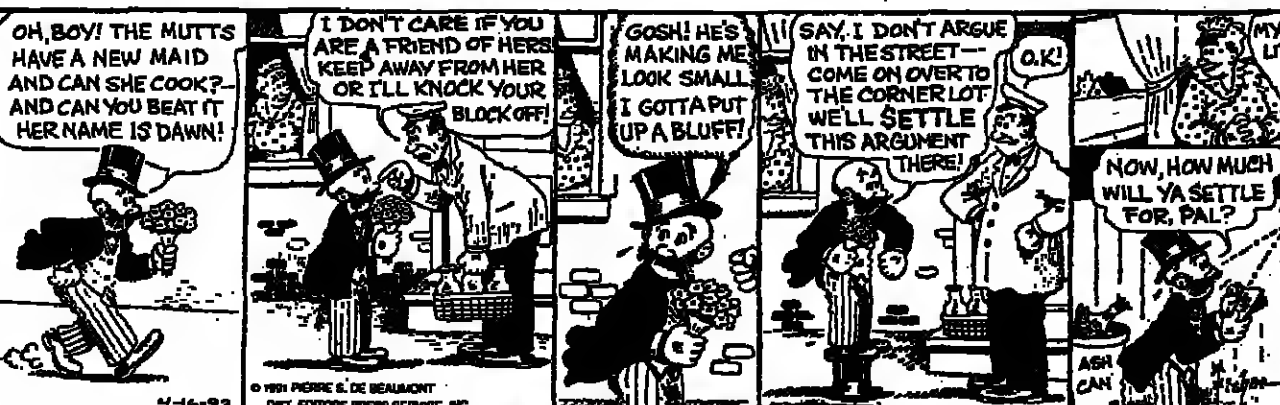
Peanuts



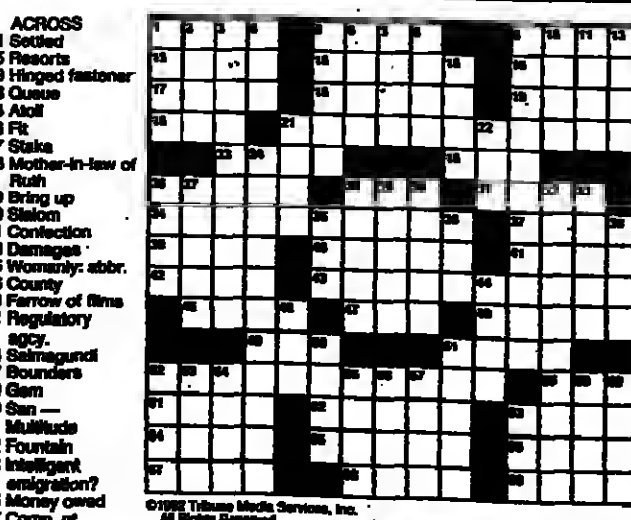
Andy Capp



Mutt'n' Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgensen



Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Bed support | 54 Agitation | 59 Needle case |
| 2 Around: prot. | 55 Best | 60 Soviet news |
| 3 Spat | 56 Provo's state | 61 Spine |
| 4 Corner | 57 Memory | 62 Scare word |
| 5 Antique car | | |
| 6 Haggis, in | | |
| 7 Scotland | | |
| 8 Boutique | | |
| 9 Expected | | |
| 10 Sex: verb | | |
| 11 Repulsive | | |
| 12 Notions | | |
| 13 Certain student | | |
| 14 Torment | | |
| 15 Cautious | | |
| 16 Most repellent: | | |
| 17 abstr. | | |
| 18 Long time | | |
| 19 Certain verb | | |
| 20 Work: verb | | |
| 21 Quickly, for | | |
| 22 short | | |
| 23 Malicious | | |
| 24 burning | | |
| 25 Where the heart | | |
| 26 is | | |
| 27 Fuss, -r | | |

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE 22/9/92	SINGAPORE BEFORE CLOSE 23/9/92
Sterling Pound*	1.6950	1.6968
Deutsche Mark	1.4975	1.4993
Swiss Franc	1.3050	1.3070
French Franc	5.1075	5.1145**
Japanese Yen	120.97	120.92
European Currency Unit	1.2925	1.3015**

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.37
Sterling Pound	9.31	8.81	8.50	8.31
Deutsche Mark	8.12	8.25	8.38	8.12
Swiss Franc	6.62	6.62	6.75	6.75
French Franc	10.50	10.00	9.25	9.25
Japanese Yen	4.31	4.00	3.81	3.75
European Currency Unit	12.63	11.37	10.68	10.37

Gold

USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
349.25	6.65	Silver	3.85	.081

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.680	0.682
Sterling/Pound	1.1528	1.1586
Deutsche Mark	0.4531	0.4554
Swiss Franc	0.5197	0.5223
French Franc	0.1321	0.1328
Japanese Yen*	0.5617	0.5645
Dutch Guilder	0.4032	0.4052
Swedish Krona	0.1206	0.1212
Italian Lira*	0.0543	0.0546
Belgian Franc	0.02208	0.02219

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7740	1.7930
Lebanese Lira*	0.02550	0.02850
Saudi Riyal	0.1810	0.1822
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2250	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1843	0.1880
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Rial	1.7370	1.7490
UAE Dirham	0.1843	0.1880
Greek Drachma*	0.3600	0.3900
Cypriot Pound	1.4500	1.5100

CAN Indices for Amman Financial Market*

Index	21/9/92	Close	22/9/92	Close
All-Share	147.61		148.38	
Banking Sector	110.65		111.63	
Insurance Sector	152.23		152.70	
Industry Sector	196.21		196.66	
Services Sector	209.39		210.21	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One sterling	1.6855/70	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2358/63	Canadian dollar
	1.5120/30	Deutsche mark
	1.6900/50	Dutch guilders
	1.3125/40	Swiss francs
	31.07/11	Belgian francs
	5.1500/900	French francs
	1262/1267	Italian lire
	121.75/80	Japanese yen
	5.6600/800	Swedish crowns
	6.1150/1350	Norwegian crowns
	5.8665/865	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$348.40/348.70	

Male-dominated World Bank says best investment is in women

WASHINGTON (AP) — The male-dominated world financial community is awakening to a surprising reality: The best investment may be in Third World women, who now work harder, earn less and die sooner than men.

Educating girls can return more profit than any other investment in developing nations, said World Bank chief economist Lawrence Summers. He presented Tuesday an unusual cost-benefit analysis of an issue championed for years by human rights and women's groups.

In addition to the financial benefit, educating women can reduce child mortality and fertility rates, cut the number of infant deaths, help prevent the spread of AIDS and improve the environment, the bank official said.

The ultimate benefit, he said, could be to "transform societies." "I would dare to suggest that over time the importance of female education will dwarf that of many of the financial issues on which we will focus over the next few years," Mr. Summers said at a seminar at the start of annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings.

Only a small minority of females are among the official delegates from about 170 mem-

ber nations. Mr. Summers announced that the bank, which is the largest single source of outside education funding for the Third World, is committed to include specific steps to expand female education in the vast majority of its loans starting next fiscal year, which begins in June 1993.

In the 1970s, only five per cent of World Bank education loans made any reference to gender, but in the 1980s the number increased to 21 per cent, said bank officer Elizabeth King. In recent years, it has approached two-thirds, and by next year three-fourths of the loans will deal specifically with the education of young women, other officials said.

Although Mr. Summers focused on the economics of girls' education, he noted a "horrible problem of excess female mortality" and self-inflicting lower expectations for women in many developing countries.

He cited a study by Amartya Sen of Harvard University who calculated that more than 100 million women are "missing" worldwide because they died sooner than they should. Mr. Summers said women are more likely to be impoverished than men and said there is evidence in some coun-



Lawrence Summers

tries that girls are fed less than their brothers and that their illnesses are less likely to be treated.

"And it can come as no surprise that female literacy falls far short of male literacy," he said.

Mr. Summers' calculations put the overall cost of educating as many girls as boys in the developing world at \$3.2 billion — less than two per cent of the developing world's government consumption and less than one per cent of their total investment in new capital goods, he said.

He suggested this could be covered by foregoing construction of one out of 30 power plants planned over the next 10 years.

Mr. Summers said educating 1,000 girls would cost \$32,000 in India and could prevent 43 infant deaths, avert two maternal deaths and stop 300 future births.

He estimated the cost of saving that many lives and preventing that many births with other programs at \$52,000 — a net gain of \$20,000 in purely financial terms without even taking into account increased productivity by the women.

"No one can objectively value a life saved or put a price tag on empowering women," Mr. Summers said, "but I think a crude calculation is instructive."

Barbara Herz, who heads the bank's five-year-old Women In Development division, said loans will include provisions for specific girls' scholarships and schools where appropriate and schools that are closer to students since distance can be a greater hindrance to girls than boys.

Other bank actions to boost women include programmes to encourage safe motherhood, to extend agricultural loans to women, to give women access to credit and to improve women's pay, Mrs. Herz said.

Fate of Europe hangs in balance with franc

PARIS (R) — By training their guns on currency speculators, France and Germany have launched a battle that could well determine the future shape of Europe.

The solidity of the franc's exchange rate against the mark over the past five years is the most potent expression of the Franco-German alliance that drives the European Community (EC).

Minister: know that if the rate snaps the European monetary system (EMS) could come unglued and the Maastricht treaty on political, economic and monetary union, its fate already in doubt after referendum in Denmark and France, can be torn up once and for all.

"If the franc were to be devalued, pressures would increase and within a week you'd see the EMS coming to an end," said William Ledward of Nomura Research Institute in London.

Knowing what is at stake, the finance ministries and central banks of France and Germany stated early Wednesday that there was no economic justification for a devaluation of the franc and promptly backed up their words with deeds.

The Bank of France jacked up its emergency lending rate to the banking system to 13 per cent from 10.5 per cent, causing money market rates to double to 20 per cent.

It then intervened massively to buy francs and was joined later by the Bundesbank, the powerful German central bank.

The aim, as French Finance Minister Michel Sapin put it, was to hit speculators where it hurts — in their wallets.

By mid-afternoon the success of the initiative was still in the balance. The franc was three centimes above its floor in the semi-fixed exchange grid, but sellers had not given up and the finance ministry had to deny rumours that a broad-based realignment of EMS parities was imminent.

A London investment banker said the market was convinced the effort would fail. "Everybody thinks it's a joke. Raising rates after promising to cut them is political suicide, and the Bank of France is running out of reserves," he said.

Currency traders have sunk their teeth into the franc after making handsome profits by picking on the British pound and Italian lira, both of which were pulled out of the EMS last week when the selling pressure became intolerable, and on the Spanish peseta, which was devalued by five per cent.

They have turned to the franc because they doubt whether the French government, six months before a general election, has the political guts to defend the currency with sky-high interest rates when almost three million people

are unemployed. The speculators have also been edged on by what many saw as half-hearted efforts by the Bundesbank, which would like to see the mark revalued, to stand up for the pound and the lira.

But the markets could be miscalculating if they think the Bundesbank will give up just as easily on the franc.

Even before Wednesday's communique, strong statements by the Bundesbank's top officials showed that, for economic and political reasons, it viewed France in a much more favourable light than Britain, Italy and Spain.

"Clearly there's a commitment to maintain the parity with the French franc that is qualitatively different," said Stefan Collingwood, research director at the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe. "The French franc's chances are much higher than the other three currencies."

George Magnus of S.G. Warburg added: "The great benefit that the French will enjoy compared to other currencies that have failed by the wayside is the support of the Bundesbank."

The Bank of France had 97.7 billion francs (\$19.19 billion) in foreign currency reserves at the end of August, and these must have been heavily depleted by the past week's intervention.

But under EMS rules, France can borrow unlimited amounts of marks from the Bundesbank.

It borrowed seven billion marks at the end of 1987 to ward off speculators, and Wednesday's statement that France and Germany "would act in conformity with the rules of the EMS" suggests that the Bundesbank will dig into its pockets again.

Because it has the power to print marks, it has in theory the wherewithal to beat the most determined of speculators.

"The Bundesbank has said it is ready to help the franc, so assuming France is prepared to defend the exchange rate I'd put my money on the parity holding," Mr. Ledward at Nomura said.

"The conditions are in place for the speculators to be defeated." So now it comes down to a battle of wills.

Will the speculators be hit so hard in their wallets that they sink off and stuff around another target, maybe the Irish punt or Danish crown?

Or will they take on the mighty Bundesbank, challenging it to toss aside its money supply targets by running the mark printing presses flat out?

Mr. Magnus at warburgs said the Bundesbank would move heaven and earth to help the franc, perhaps cutting interest rates again.

"Increasingly it's a political question: Whether the Bundesbank wants to be held responsible for the break-up of the EMS," he said.

Jordan's potash company begins major expansion

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's potash industry, stimulated partly by fast-growing Asian markets, has begun a two-phase plan to raise production by more than 50 per cent over the next five years.

The \$260 million project by Arab Potash Co., the country's only producer and one of its main foreign currency earners, would raise annual production to 2.2 million tonnes from the present 1.4 million tonnes by 1997, the company's deputy manager, Sulaiman Al Hawari, told Reuters Tuesday.

The World Bank and the Islamic Development Bank will contribute \$31 million in soft loans for the first phase of expansion of the facilities on the Dead Sea. The facilities are now worth about \$500 million.

"We expect a growth in the use of potash for fertilisers in the fast-growing Asian markets in addition to outlets in local industrial diversification projects," Mr. Hawari said.

The company, 57 per cent owned by the Jordanian government with minority stakes by other Arab states, will fund the rest.

Mr. Hawari said construction began this month on the first \$120 million phase of the project, which will raise output to 1.8 million tonnes by late 1995 by building a new refinery.

In the second phase, estimated to cost \$140 million, the company will build another refinery and expand solar evaporation systems which extract minerals from the Dead Sea water.

Mr. Hawari said the value of Jordanian potash exports rose to \$150 million in 1991 from \$130 million in 1990. Volume rose slightly to a record 1.41 million tonnes in 1991 from 1.40 million tonnes in 1990.

He said greater price stability in international markets has generated increased confidence that the industry can expand. Prices on the world market have risen to up to \$114 a tonne from about \$110 last year, he added.

In its annual report the company said it expected prices to remain firm through 1995 due partly to a gradual increase in demand and more realistic pricing by eastern European producers now operating in a free market.

Jordan, one of the world's major potash producers, is expected to benefit from the continued growth of its traditional Asian markets, the company said.

The company's shipments to China rose to 468,514 tonnes in 1991, 47 per cent more than in 1990, and the firm's share on the Chinese market increased to 21 per cent.

Italian unions stage anti-government protest

ROME (R) — Tens of thousands of workers took to the streets Wednesday in some of the biggest anti-government protests seen in Italy since the early 1970s.

Some 100,000 paraded through the country's business capital of Milan while another 50,000 gathered in the university city of Bologna, a traditional left-wing stronghold.

Police had mobilised for trouble after militants in a 100,000-strong crowd in Florence Tuesday pelted union leader Bruno Trentin with eggs and bolts.

But although a few missiles were thrown Wednesday, no serious incidents were reported. Two national newspapers failed to appear Wednesday and wildcat strikes were causing localised rail havoc, while long delays built up on Italy's border with Switzerland as customs officers walked out a Chiasso, near Como.

More industrial action is planned in various parts of the country this week but so far no general strike has been called.

"This is the biggest industrial action in Italy for the last 20 years," said Mr. Trentin, leader of the country's biggest union grouping, the CGIL, whom many militants accuse of being too soft on the government.

In the early 1970s, riding on a wave of popular unrest which swept Europe from 1968, Italian workers staged almost continuous protests which won them major privileges and concessions.

Some of those gains, like generous pensions and wage deals, are now prime causes for the budget deficit which is threatening to exclude Italy from planned European Community union.

The unions are demanding changes to a stiff package of cuts in health and social services unveiled last week by Prime Minister Giuliano Amato in his 1993 budget bill.

The bill aims to stem the relentless in the huge deficit, prime cause of the currency market pressure which forced this month's seven per cent lira devaluation.

The lira has been given a breathing space by Mr. Amato's decision last week to suspend it from the European Community's currency grid and Wednesday was trading around 840 to the mark, little changed from the previous close but well down from its pre-devaluation 765.40 level.

Economists say it is vital for Mr. Amato to face down the unions and carry through his 1993 budget if he wants to restore market confidence in Italy and its still-overvalued currency.

In July, Mr. Amato bowed to union pressure when he watered down a 1992 belt-tightening package which proposed income-tax rises after labour leaders threatened revolt.

But he scored a major victory later that month when big unions agreed to sign an accord scrapping the inflationary "scala mobile" system of wage indexation.

Now the lira devaluation and its attendant spectre of inflation has increased even moderate unions and complicated his task of winning labour support for the 1993 budget.

Many individual members of the three big union groupings, the CGIL, UIL and CISL, have called for the "scala mobile" accord to be scrapped.

The agreement is due to be signed and incorporated into a wider agreement with employers and government later this month.

The 1993 budget bill aims to save \$87 billion but even so, changes to a stiff package of cuts will barely make a dent in a budget deficit expected to touch \$130 billion this year.

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PHILADELPHIA

THELMA and LOUISE

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U.N. expels Yugoslavia

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Yugoslavia has been expelled from the General Assembly and is unlikely to regain its seat in the United Nations until Western members feel it is no longer fomenting war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The General Assembly late Tuesday night adopted a resolution ousting the rump Yugoslav state made of Serbia and Montenegro and said it would have to submit a new application for U.N. membership.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 127 votes in favour, six against and 26 abstentions. Twenty other states either were absent or did not participate in the vote.

The move was opposed by Yugoslavia, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland and Kenya.

The resolution refers only to ejecting Belgrade from the General Assembly rather than all U.N. bodies. But by making Yugoslavia apply anew, the document effectively invalidates the country's U.N. membership.

The Security Council, which must endorse any new application for U.N. membership, has said it will reconsider the issue again around mid-December.

But at least nine votes and no veto are needed in the western-oriented council. This means members can block the application indefinitely if they feel Yugoslavia is not carrying out its obligations to establish peace in Bosnia.

The 179-member Assembly

acted on a recommendation of the Security Council, which Saturday declared that the rump Federal Republic of Yugoslavia cannot continue automatically the membership of the former Socialist Yugoslav Federation.

The republics of Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia have all broken away and are now independent states.

The assembly, echoing the council's recommendation, therefore decided the remnant of the Yugoslav state "should apply for membership in the United Nations and that it shall not participate in the work of the General Assembly."

While not spelled out in the document, the resolution aims at punishing the Belgrade government for involvement in the fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina. More than 10,000 people have been killed since ethnic Serbs took over arms six months ago to oppose the republic's secession.

The resolution was introduced by Ambassador Sir David Hannay of Britain, which holds the presidency of the 12-nation European community and was co-sponsored by 44 states.

Speaking before the vote, Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic said he was formally requesting U.N. membership for what he called the new Yugoslavia.

In a highly conciliatory speech, he said he was pursuing a programme of peace and begged the assembly: "Do not undermine a man of peace."

Mr. Panic said all troops had

been withdrawn from Bosnia and officials who failed to oppose the "vile practice" of so-called "ethnic cleansing" had been dismissed or jailed.

But he had received no support from world leaders in his "internal struggle ... with militant nationalists" opposed to his policies, he complained.

"They even bolster the position of my principal internal opponent by meeting with him on their visits to Yugoslavia," he added, alluding to Serbia's strongman President Slobodan Milosevic.

"Please stop this," urged Mr. Panic, a Yugoslav-born millionaire businessman who until recently lived in California.

He renewed an invitation to the United Nations to send observers to monitor Yugoslavia's airfields and borders.

"Please come to Yugoslavia and assure yourselves that no support is flowing from Yugoslavia to combatants in Bosnia or Croatia," he pleaded.

The United States, in a move designed to intensify pressure on Serbia, formally submitted what it considers credible allegations of war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina to the United Nations Tuesday.

It also said it was drafting a resolution to establish a commission to probe the charges and prosecute offenders if warranted.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the report filed with the U.N. details "allegations of wilful killing, torture of prisoners, abuse of civil

lians in detention centres, deliberate attacks on non-combatants, wanton devastation and destruction of property and others including mass, forcible expulsion and deportation of civilians," also known as "ethnic cleansing."

"We are working actively with others on a resolution to create a United Nations commission to look into these charges, to establish the facts and to prepare for possible prosecution of individuals found guilty of those crimes," he added.

Prosecution could not begin until specific individuals were identified as being responsible for specific crimes, U.S. officials said.

Meanwhile, nine people were killed in a Serb artillery attack on a hospital in Bihac in northeast Bosnia and three died when a tank shell hit a Red Cross soup kitchen in the republic's capital Sarajevo, reports said Wednesday.

Croatian Radio, reporting the bombardment against Muslim-held Bihac, said 20 people were seriously wounded.

Journalists at the Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said the soup kitchen in the town centre was packed with people when it was struck. At least 28 were wounded.

Both incidents happened Tuesday evening shortly before the United Nations General Assembly voted to expel Serb-led Yugoslavia from its ranks and the United States.

Ciskei blames ANC for bloodbath

PRETORIA (R) — The Ciskei Defence Force told an independent commission of inquiry Wednesday the blame for the Bisho massacre lay with the African National Congress (ANC) and its allies.

"Our submission is that the commission will find the shooting occurred because Ciskei security forces were fired on and were about to be attacked on an overrun by a crowd which was numerically far superior," said Izak Smit, counsel for the Ciskei Defence Force.

"The crowd was neither peaceful nor unarmed," said Mr. Smit, citing news reports and television film submitted to the inquiry as evidence.

He said the news reports referred to armed men in the ANC crowd and he noted that one television picture showed a handgun lying on the ground next to one of the bodies.

"Soldiers of the nominally-independent homeland killed at least 28 ANC demonstrators who were marching on the Ciskei capital of Bisho on Sept. 7 with the declared aim of ousting the homeland's military ruler, Brigadier Oupa Gqozo."

"A pathologist said Tuesday 15 of the 28 marchers had been shot off the back."

New Azeri-Armenian truce reported

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan have agreed a two-month ceasefire in their undeclared war, to come into force Friday, Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said in a newspaper interview published Wednesday.

The daily Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted Mr. Grachev as saying the agreement was reached at a meeting of the Russian, Armenian, Azeri and Georgian defence ministers in the southern Russian resort of Sochi last weekend.

The Armenian embassy in Moscow confirmed that an agreement had been signed. But an Azeri Defence Ministry spokesman said by telephone from Baku that he knew nothing of it. Numerous previous ceasefires have collapsed quickly.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in the past four and a half years in the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan.

The fighting has spread to the Armenian-Azeri border.

The newspaper said the agreement, signed by Armenia's Vazgen Sargsyan and Azerbaijan's Ragim Gaziyev, provides for a truce from Friday midnight both along the Azeri-Armenian border and around the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Observers from Russia, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine and Kazakhstan are to be sent to the fighting area.

"If the observers recommend, and if Armenia and Azerbaijan

agree, peacekeeping forces could be sent to the region," the newspaper quoted the agreement as saying. But it did not say who would provide these troops.

All previous attempts to bring the warring ex-Soviet republics to peace have failed. The latest truce, agreed under Kazakhstan's mediation last month, has been continually violated by both sides.

But Komsomolskaya Pravda quoted Mr. Grachev as saying he had an impression both sides were tired of fighting. Mr. Grachev also said Baku and Yerevan were running out of military equipment.

Fierce fighting continued in Nagorno-Karabakh with both Armenia and Azerbaijan reporting clashes over the disputed territory.

News agencies from both sides reported agreement on a three-day ceasefire on the border of Nagorno-Karabakh, a separate slice of Azeri territory sandwiched between Armenia and Iran.

Representatives of the two sides met Monday evening and agreed to the truce until a new round of talks on Sept. 25.

Russian border troops, a left-over from the break-up of the Soviet Union, began pulling out of Nagorno-Karabakh Monday to southern Russia under an agreement between Moscow and the Azeri government, TASS said.

In the third Transcaucasian republic, Georgia, separatist leaders in the western region of Abkhazia called for a boycott of

national elections scheduled for Oct. 11.

In a resolution passed in their stronghold at Gudauta, on the Black Sea coast, the region's parliamentary leaders said the elections would be illegal in "autonomous" Abkhazia.

The Abkhazians, who make up around a fifth of the population of their own region, declared effective self-rule in July. Georgia sent in troops the following month and at least 150 people have been killed in armed clashes.

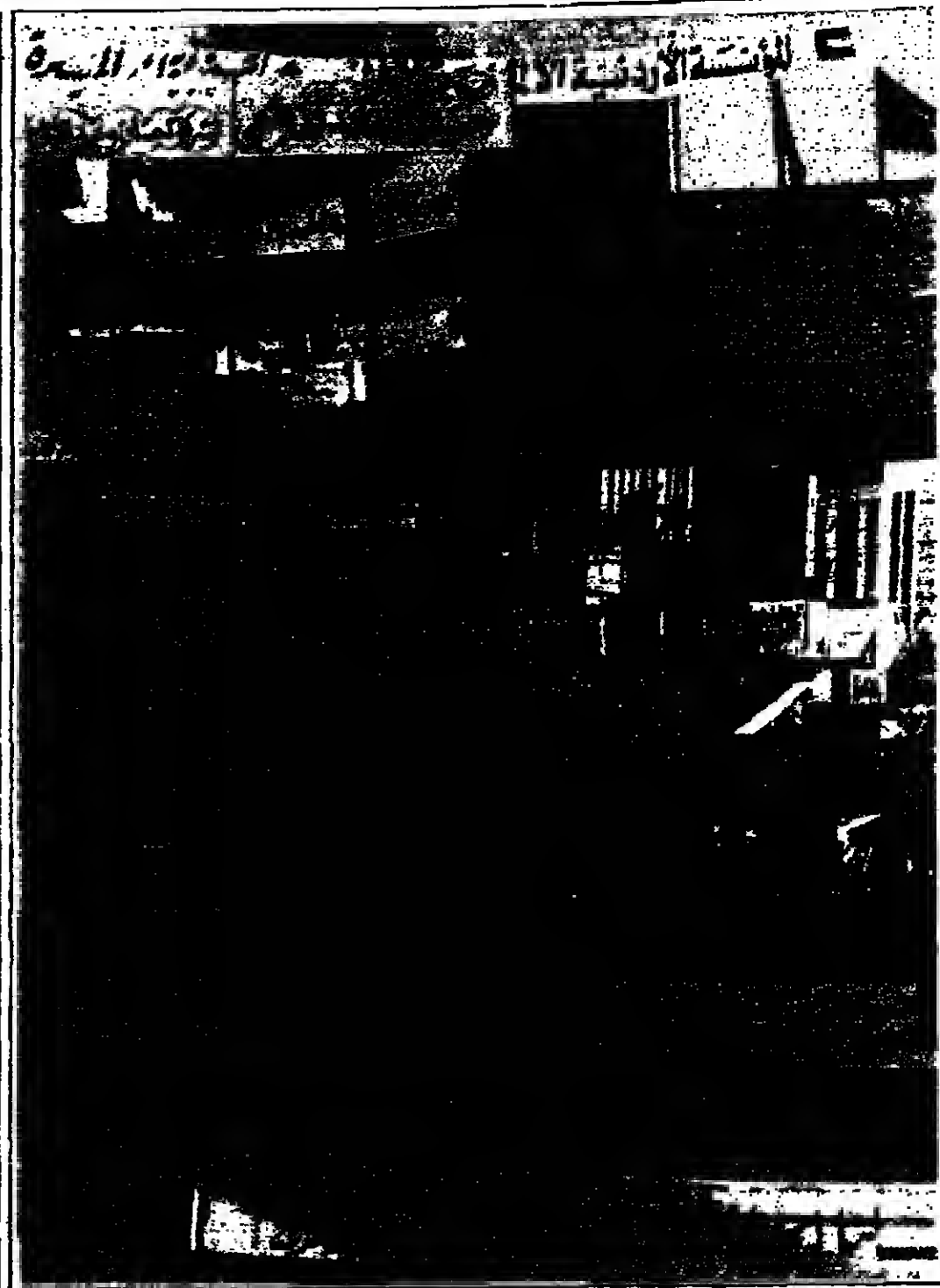
Hundreds of tribesmen from southern Russia streamed across the Caucasus mountains to help the separatists, causing concern in Moscow that the conflict would spread to Russian territory.

A leader of one of the south Russian tribal regions, the Chechen Republic, told TASS after talks in Moscow that all the Chechen volunteers fighting in Abkhazia would be withdrawn.

In Central Asia, Russian troops caught between feuding armed groups in Tajikistan are being pulled back to barracks from guard duty at vital government installations.

"I have no right to expose my men to bullets," Major-General Mehriban Ashurov, head of a Russian army division in the Central Asian state, told Interfax News Agency Tuesday.

At one post, on the Chornogazak Pass, the Russian soldiers had been virtually held hostage for three days by bands of 400 to 500 armed men on each side, he said.



LOVE IS IN THE AIR: In an atmosphere of Majesty King Hussein who returns home today celebration, Jordanians are prepared to meet him (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Kissinger denies knowing U.S. PoWs left in Indochina

WASHINGTON (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger angrily denied as a "flat-out lie" claims that the Nixon administration knowingly abandoned U.S. prisoners of war in its rush to withdraw from Vietnam in 1973.

In Senate testimony Dr. Kissinger, President Richard Nixon's national security adviser who negotiated the U.S. withdrawal, said the blame for any Americans left behind belonged to "cold-hearted rulers in Hanoi" who may have breached commitments to return them.

But he said he had no confirmed report of any individual held back at the time and that to suggest otherwise was a "flat-out lie."

"What has happened to this country that a congressional committee should be asked to inquire whether any American officials of whatever administration would fail to move heaven and earth to fight for the release of American PoWs and for an accounting of the missing?" he said before the Select Committee on POW and MIA (missing-in-action) Affairs.

Dr. Kissinger blamed Congress for depriving him of leverage to enforce the peace accords signed in Paris on Jan. 27, 1973 by having cut off funds for resuming the war. He challenged those flaunting 20-20 hindsight to say how they would have got better terms in the charged political circumstances of 20 years ago.

Dr. Kissinger shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Le Duc Tho of North Vietnam for negotiating an end to the war. Despite the Watergate scandal that was engulfing Mr. Nixon and despite the public outcry against prolonging the war, Dr. Kissinger said he had advocated the resumption of military operations to enforce the agreement, starting in mid-March 1973.

"American prisoners may have been kept in Vietnam by a treacherous enemy in violation of agreements and human decency but no-one was left there by the deliberate act or negligent omission of any American official," he added. "If servicemen were kept by our enemies there is one villain and one villain only: the cold-hearted rulers in Hanoi."

Two of Nixon's defence secretaries — Melvin Laird and James Schlesinger — testified Monday that Mr. Nixon decided to complete the U.S. pullout despite strong indications that some prisoners had not been returned.

Clinton, Gore campaign in south

COLUMBUS, Georgia (Agencies) — U.S. Democratic challenger Bill Clinton Wednesday took his campaign to the south in a bid to upset President George Bush in his traditional base and reverse a trend of Republican victories in the region.

Mr. Clinton, boosted by a 21-point lead in the latest opinion polls, arrived in Georgia late Tuesday saying: "We feel at home here."

Speaking of the pro-Republican trend in the south, he said: "I think it can change. I think it should change."

"We're making an effort here, we're making an effort in Alabama and all across the south."

The Clinton campaign challenged the accepted view that Georgia was solid Bush territory.

"There are very few Bush states, as far as I can tell," said Clinton campaign director Bruce Lindsey. "Georgia is a state that we have a shot at winning and we're going to campaign there."

Latest opinion polls show Mr. Clinton increasing his lead over Mr. Bush in recent weeks. A Washington Post/ABC News poll gave the challenger a 58 per cent to 37 per cent lead over the president.

Mr. Clinton sounded a confident note Tuesday when he told a hoisterous crowd at Michigan State University in East Lansing: "Ladies and gentlemen, six weeks from today we're going to take our country back and give you your future back."

With the campaign for the November presidential election in its final phase, Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton are locked in an intense debate over the format of a televised debate between them.

While Mr. Clinton wants a single moderator as recommended by a bipartisan Presidential Debate Commission, Mr. Bush favours a panel of journalists as he had in 1988.

Mr. Lindsey said he was not sure whether the Bush campaign really wanted to debate, adding that it might soon be too late to organise one.

"Obviously we're not going to allow this to continue to the point where we can't do what we want to do. At some point it will become evident that they're not serious about this and that we need to go about our business," he said.

Mr. Clinton came to the site of what was supposed to be the first presidential debate Tuesday, but President Bush embarked on a hastily arranged campaign tour of six other states.

"I'm here, ready, willing and able," the Democratic presidential nominee said while party chief Ron Brown claimed Mr. Bush refused to debate because "he didn't want to face Bill Clinton."

"I assume he can tell the pilot of Air Force One where to fly,"

Mr. Brown said on CBS' *This Morning*. "Instead of frantically flying around to six states today, just landing at airports, he ought to fly to Lansing, Michigan, and debate Bill Clinton."

With 42 days until the election, an ABC News-Washington Post poll showed Mr. Clinton's lead expanding for the third straight week. He was running ahead of Mr. Bush 58 per cent to 37 per cent, according to a survey of 637 likely voters. The poll, taken Sunday, had a margin of error of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

Mr. Bush set off at daybreak for rallies in Missouri, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Mississippi and Tennessee. The six states have a total of 78 electoral votes, about one-quarter of the 270 needed to win the election. The winner in each state gets all of that state's electoral votes, which actually decide the outcome of U.S. presidential elections.

Republican National Chairman Rich Bond was set to hold a news conference in East Lansing after Mr. Clinton's rally and argue that Mr. Clinton should debate himself, since there are so many issues he's been accused of waffling on.

The Bush camp, which planned to use video clips of Mr. Clinton in making that charge, has tried to paint Mr. Clinton as a have-it-both-ways politician who's refused to take hard stands on issues such as the free trade pact with Mexico. It fits in with their charge that Mr. Clinton has been less than truthful about his draft history. Mr. Bush himself made that point Monday.

Meanwhile Vice President Dan Quayle, on the morning after television comedy character Murphy Brown struck back, declared Tuesday that he is winning his battle to force Hollywood to reflect more traditional values.

Mr. Quayle told reporters that there has been a change since last May when he chastised the show for "mocking the importance of fathers" by having its unmarried title character become a mother.

"They will now ask themselves the question every time they make a movie or put out a TV show, 'what does this say about traditional values?'" said the vice president.

The show fired back at Mr. Quayle Monday night in an hour-long season premier filled with jibes at the vice president.

In a separate development Texas billionaire Ross Perot met Republican campaign chief James Baker and the Democrat's party chairman Tuesday and raised speculation he might re-enter the presidential race by saying he made a mistake in pulling out in July.

NBC News quoted Mr. Baker, the White House chief of staff, as saying the meeting was Mr. Perot's idea.

COLUMN 100000

Major's son gets red card

LONDON (R) — John Major's teenage son was ordered off a soccer pitch at his exclusive private school and the prime minister's office denied newspaper reports he was sent off for using foul language. "He was not sent off for the use of foul language or abusive language," a Downing Street spokeswoman said. James Major, 17, in his final year at the £1,270 (\$2,200) a term school near Cambridge, eastern England, was given the red card after two dubious tackles.

Restoration work starts on Colosseum

ROME (R) — Work on a major restoration of Rome's 2,000-year-old Colosseum, a symbol of the "eternal city" and now in danger of collapse, began Tuesday. The 57-metre-high (187 foot) stadium, scene of ancient Roman spectacles ranging from gladiator fights to wild animal hunts, is blackened by exhaust fumes from one of the city's busiest road junctions and in desperate need of repair. "This will be no cosmetic change but a complete restoration of the monument," said Francesco Sissini a spokesman for Italy's Heritage Ministry. The \$37 million, four-year project is being financed by a banking group after the government said it could not afford the restoration cost. Officials warned in June that visitors ran the risk of being hit by falling pieces of stonework.

'Pavarotti's fee is too high'

BOLOGNA, Italy (R) — Italy's stringent spending cuts are threatening to hit its most famous tenor, Luciano Pavarotti. Officials from the north-central Emilia-Romagna region have said the 360 million lire (\$500,000) they agreed to pay Pavarotti in July for a single night's work is now too high. On Sept. 17 Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti's government passed a series of austerity measures to rein in Italy's huge budget deficit. "In times of economic crisis, it's not fair for all that public money to be spent on a singer," said Emilio Sabatini, a Christian Democrat regional official. But regional President Enrico Boselli said Pavarotti's fee cannot be retracted because a contract has been signed. The tenor is due to appear Sunday in a concert called Pavarotti International.

7 Cezanne paintings to be auctioned

LONDON (R) — Seven paintings by French artist Paul Cezanne will be sold at auction in November and are expected to fetch £12 million (\$20.6 million), London auctioneers Christie's said. Christie's said the paintings, including the celebrated "Cinq Baigiseurs" (Bathers) and "Portrait de L'Arlésien" (Self Portrait) were the most important group of works by Cezanne seen on the market for 50 years. The paintings cover the artist's changing style over 30 years in the late 19th century and come from the collection of August Pellerin, the single most important collector of Cezanne's work. None of them have appeared on the market since Cezanne's death in 1906.

Canadian bank launches braille accounts

TORONTO (R) — A major Canadian bank said it had started offering monthly checking statements in braille to help the blind. Volunteers with the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB) helped the Royal Bank of Canada develop the statement, CNIB spokesman Bob Elton said. "Probably nothing is as personal as your own statement," he said. Mr. Elton said that as far as he knew, this was the first time a Canadian bank had offered such a service. A group of workers at the bank's computer systems and technology group, one of whom is visually impaired, came up with the idea.

National dish muscles in on fast-food

BRUSSELS (R) — Belgium's national dish, the Mussels Casserole, has moved into the fast-food lane — a local manufacturer has produced a three-minute version. The company which launched the pre-cooked dish won a coveted national food award, the Taverne D'Or, for its product which it says is selling very well across Europe. In true Belgian tradition, the company decided to make the mussels portions large — one fills up a middle-sized pan.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Democrat becomes Thai premier

BANGKOK (R) — Democrat Party leader Chuan Leekpai, who has pledged to end the military's domination of politics in Thailand, was named prime minister Wednesday at the head of a five-party coalition. Mr. Chuan takes over from an interim government that replaced General Suchinda Kraprayoon who resigned as prime minister in disgrace in May after his troops opened fire on pro-democracy demonstrators in Bangkok, killing scores and wounding hundreds. "I deem it suitable for Mr. Chuan Leekpai to be entrusted to assume the premiership," a royal decree signed by King Bhumibol Adulyadej said. The decree was rushed from the royal palace to the headquarters of Mr. Chuan's Democrat Party where the youthful-looking 54-year-old veteran politician knelt before a picture of the monarch to receive it. "I fully realise that from this minute, the task facing me is great and limitless," Mr. Chuan told reporters and 700 supporters who gathered to cheer him. Mr. Chuan's coalition can muster 207 votes in the 360-seat House of Representatives following elections on Sept. 13 that saw victory for anti-military parties.

Floods kill 22 in France

VAISON-LA-ROMAINE, France (R) — At least 22 people died and 20 were missing after flash floods and fierce storms swept the Ardeche, Vaucluse and Drome regions in south east France, officials and radio reports said Wednesday. Thirty houses were destroyed in the worst-hit town of Vaison-La-Romaine where a fast-moving river of mud cascaded through streets sweeping away people, cars, trees and bridges. Torrential rains cut telephone and electricity lines to 30,000 homes and blocked roads around Vaison where at least 19 people, including two Belgians and a seven-year-old girl, died after Tuesday night's storms, according to local officials. Residents returning home after the storm found their roofs ripped off, furniture in shreds and personal belongings buried under mountains of gravel. More than 1,000 police, firefighters and emergency workers conducted a house-by-house search for bodies and scoured flooded fields and roadways around Vaison while helicopters plucked flood victims from roofs and trees.

Khmer Rouge planning offensive

PHNOM PENH (AP) — The Khmer Rouge is preparing to launch a dry-season offensive that, at the worst, could be directed against U.N. peacekeeping troops in Cambodia, the head of the Phnom Penh government faction said. Premier Hun Sen told reporters he warned U.N. peacekeepers several days ago that they should be prepared for an offensive by the Khmer Rouge

now that the rainy season is ending. The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodians in an attempt to turn the country into a giant agrarian commune in the 1970s. It signed a peace accord with Cambodia's three other factions last year to end their 13-year civil war. But the guerrilla group has continued to skirmish regularly with government troops in the countryside.

Japan wants U.N. Council seat

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe has urged a restructuring of the perennially-bankrupt United Nations, especially the Security Council on which Tokyo has long sought a permanent seat. He also proposed a start-up peacekeeping fund, which sides said would total \$150 million, financed in part by money and interest owed the United Nations. "The way the organisation is structured makes one question whether the United Nations can effectively meet expectations," Mr. Watanabe said in a speech at the General Assembly. Japan has lobbied for a permanent seat on the Council. The 15-member body has five permanent members, the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France. Mr. Watanabe put no specific date on when he hoped Japan could join the Council but said he expected to see changes in 1995, the 50th anniversary of the world body.

Vietnam assembly elects new president

HANOI (R) — General Le Duc Anh, Vietnam's top military man and a powerful Communist Party official, was elected state president by the National Assembly Wednesday, Vietnamese Radio said. Mr. Anh, 72, was the sole candidate proposed by the deputies, who voted by secret ballot. A government observer who witnessed the election told Reuters he got 100 per cent of the votes cast by the 392 deputies present. He replaces Vo Chi Cong, 79, who retired from the party's 13-man politburo in June 1991 when Gen. Anh was promoted to number two in that top policy-making body. Many Vietnamese see Gen. Anh as one of the conservative old guard in the party and army, a group that considers excessively rapid economic or political reforms a threat to stability.

Russia, Chechen Republic reach accord

MOSCOW (J.T.) — Russian and Chechen officials Wednesday concluded talks aimed at ending their disputes. The Russian federation vice-president, Mr. Rutskoy, agreed that Russia would lift blockade on the Chechen republic. The two sides also agreed to exchange representatives in both Moscow and Grozny, the Chechen republic's capital. They also agreed to hold a summit meeting between Chechen President Dudaev and Russian President Boris Yeltsin.